

## Tory demand for Service pay increases accepted

The Government yesterday accepted a Tory private member's motion in the Commons that it should ensure a reasonable increase in pay for the Armed Forces and a substantial improvement in conditions, but only when pay policy permitted. Review body recommendations would be accepted, although any award might be phased in over a period if it breached pay guidelines.

## Phased rises likely 'when policy permits'

By Hugh Noyes  
Parliamentary Correspondent, Westminster

Genuine concern for the troops was liberally mingled with dollops of political opportunism as the Commons yesterday debated a motion for pay increases against a background of mounting unrest throughout the forces.

But after all the heated exchanges across the floor of the House, it was clear at the end of the day, as Mr. Gilbert, Minister of State for Defence, told MPs, that there was no disagreement among political parties on the basic issue that Service pay should be restored to full comparability "as soon as pay policy permits".

He accepted the private member's motion of Mr. Page, Conservative MP for Crosby, who initiated the debate, that the Government should ensure a reasonable increase in the remuneration of Servicemen and Servicewomen and a substantial improvement in their conditions of service.

Mr. Gilbert pointed out that the present areas of concern because of pay policy. He indicated that the Government would be accepting whatever recommendations on pay were made by the Armed Forces pay review body, although the award might have to be phased over a period if it did not come within the pay guidelines.

Earlier Mr. Winston Churchill had spoken from the Tory front bench, although he was "disagreeing before our very eyes", and of the gravest crisis since the end of the last war. Certain Labour MPs, he said, would like to see the Armed Forces weakened, demoralized, and on their knees.

The alarm bells were ringing but when, he asked, would the Secretary of State wake up?

Mr. Churchill pointed out that severe, rising the Provisional IRA high failure to act as such as a pinprick effect in executive on Thursday to permit local productivity deals with the National Coal Board has prompted Glass Houghton colliery to approach management for a scheme.

The Armed Forces while the Secretary of State in seven months had demoralized the Army, not just in Northern Ireland but in all three fighting Services.

But for all Mr. Churchill's flamboyant language, there was no recognition by him of the Government's dilemma over its pay guidelines, and barely a mention of what Conservatives would do in similar circumstances.

He spoke of unlimited free travel warrants, but for the rest Mr. Churchill left it until the final sentence of his speech to urge the Government to give a commitment to restore at the earliest possible moment the fundamental basis of the military salary, namely full comparability of pay.

Some weight was given to the poorly attended debate by the attendance, in a non-speaking role, of Mr. Mulley, the Secretary of State for Defence, and Sir Ian Gilmour, Conservative defence spokesman.

Mr. Page spoke of the "raw deal" that Servicemen were getting in relation to their dangerous duties, and to the conditions in which they had to be carried out. There was mounting public concern and it was not good enough to tell soldiers that they could supplement their pay at a petrol pump or by selling petrol in a pub.

From the Liberal benches Mr. Emyln Hooson said that defence was one of the most vulnerable areas of the Government, but in Britain's present predicament there could be no special cases on pay.

Parliamentary report, page 3

## Offer to link firemen's pay to best in industry

By Donald Macintyre  
Labour Reporter

The Fire Brigades' Union executive met last night to consider an offer which, after two years, would link firemen's pay once, and for all to that of the top 25 groups of workers in industry.

The local authority employers made their proposals to the leaders of the striking firemen after five hours of discussion yesterday. On the cautious projection that earnings will increase over the next two years by 20 per cent, the firemen would expect to be earning an average of £102 a week from November, 1979.

The employers' hopes rested last night on the 16 members of the union executive reversing a mood on which they appear to have been united during the strike, namely that their members were out for an immediate rise of more than 10 per cent and not for any formula for the future.

Mr. Brian Rustbridge, secretary of the employers' side of the National Joint Council for the Fire Service, said: "In the view of the employers this is a first-class offer by any standards. It is such an excellent offer that the firemen must accept it."

The complex formula, implementation of which is conditional on an end to the strike, would peg firemen's earnings to the upper levels of skilled adult male manual workers as recorded in the Department of Employment's New Earnings Survey.

In line with the statement of Mr. Rees, the Home Secretary, in the Commons on Thursday, it would close the gap between firemen's current average earnings of £99.80 and those of skilled manual workers over two stages.

Besides the 10 per cent from November 7 this year, firemen's pay would increase from November, 1978, by half the gap between their present earnings and the present earnings of skilled manual workers, about £81. In addition they would receive the difference between the £81 and whatever is the November, 1979, figure for skilled manual workers.

In 1979 the rate would be adjusted again to equate fully with the manual workers' figure.

Pay review idea, page 2

**Lift men vote to end strike**  
Britain's lift engineers voted by 1,634 to 1,294 yesterday in favour of a return to work on Monday. Their pay strike began five weeks ago.

However, Mr. Alfred McBrowne, the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union official responsible for the liftmen, said some men may ignore the decision to return to work.

## Schools Inspectorate cool towards classes of mixed ability

By Diana Geddes  
Education Correspondent

Mixed-ability teaching rarely produces satisfactory results at secondary school level, the Schools Inspectorate says in a background document prepared for the Government's conference on comprehensive education in York next week.

Teaching groups of children of a wide range of ability made demands on teachers that were extraordinarily difficult to meet, especially at secondary level, the Inspectorate says.

The outcome, with few exceptions where highly gifted enthusiasts have given much time and effort to careful planning and preparation and have built in continuing and effective assessment procedures, is one of two kinds of unsatisfactory practice.

In one, where traditional teaching methods appropriate to groups of mixed ability were preserved, demand was pitched at a level of "middle", with almost certain failure to satisfy either extreme of the ability range, the Inspectorate says.

In the other approach, "teaching" almost vanished, yielding to individualized learning techniques, generally based on assignment, cards and work sheets that were not always of adequate quality.

Such devices, when well prepared, carefully chosen and wisely used could make a significant contribution to the difficult task of matching demand with capacity, but it was important to realize the limitations of such methods. Even the best individual programmes provided only one kind of learning experience, the Inspectorate says.

Some argued that total mixed-ability teaching throughout a school was the only way to implement comprehensive philosophy and to ensure equality of opportunity. However, it could rarely guarantee the latter, since its operation normally involved the deployment of teachers, who were demonstrably unequal in quality, on the carefully "equalized" teaching groups.

The Inspectorate's strong reservations about mixed-ability teaching certainly does not mean that it favours the opposite extreme, that of streaming or the strict division of children according to their supposed general ability into separate classes for all subjects.

The argument against streaming, that pupils tend to fulfil what is expected of them, had now won general acceptance, the Inspectorate says. It was also widely recognized that streaming could take no account of the strengths and weaknesses of an individual in different subjects.

Comparatively few schools had gone over to total mixed-ability teaching, even in the first three years. Most schools had adopted a compromise between the two extremes, such as "setting" by ability in particular subjects like French and mathematics, or broad banding, which still remained vulnerable to the expectation of fulfilment charge. There is no ideal solution, the Inspectorate says.

Turning to another recent trend in schools, the great increase in attention given to the social and personal development of a child, the Inspectorate suggests that there might now have been too big a swing in the direction of pastoral care at the cost of academic standards. Teachers' time was the main constraint, it says.

The Inspectorate clearly does not want to suggest that pastoral care is unimportant, simply that it should be kept in balance with academic considerations within the limits set by a school's resources. Indeed, one of the five papers in the Inspectorate's report is devoted entirely to pastoral care.

Few would disagree with the Inspectorate's conclusion that the prime purpose of a school is to be an agent for learning.

But it was important to be aware of the extent to which social and personal factors bear on a child's learning performance, and vice versa, and of the need actively to provide opportunities for all pupils, whatever their ability, to grow to personal and social responsibility in a supportive yet not overbearing atmosphere.

The other four papers in the 62-page report deal with the curriculum; the internal organization of schools, including teaching methods; pupils with special needs; and the wide variety of patterns of comprehensive schools. The Inspectorate's conclusion on the last subject is that "no single pattern has the monopoly of advantage".

The Department of Education and Science's conference on comprehensive education, which is by invitation only, is to be held at York University on December 16 and 17. Fifty-nine chairmen of education committees, heads of schools, local authority directors of education, teachers' union representatives and other educationists in England will be attending, as well as seven observers from Scotland, Wales, France, The Netherlands and the EEC.

Aspects of comprehensive education (Department of Education and Science).

**British nurse jailed for 20 years in Thailand**  
From Neil Kelly  
Bangkok, Dec 9

Lawsuits will seek a king's pardon for Miss Rita Nightingale, aged 24, the British nurse who was sentenced today to 20 years' imprisonment for attempted drug trafficking.

They believe there is a chance that the King of Thailand will pardon Miss Nightingale in about a year's time. She has already been in custody for eight and a half months. They have asked her to appeal against the sentence.

Miss Nightingale, from Blackburn, Lancashire, collapsed into the arms of a friend when the court verdict was announced. Through her tears she said she did not wish to appeal. "I could not bear more court appearances," she said. "The court just does not understand. I cannot believe I am here and those men were set free."

She was referring to two Hongkong Chinese arrested with her last March after they smuggled a half of heroin was found in her baggage, as she waited to board a flight to Paris. She had arrived from Bangkok two days earlier.

Miss Nightingale pleaded not guilty to the charges and claimed she had been "framed" by the two men. She alleged that one of them had planted the heroin in her baggage while it was in his possession at a Bangkok hotel before she went to the airport for her flight.

Thailand police held the men for a month and then set them free. Six lawyers had expected that the men, who were known to the Hongkong police as drug dealers, would be held at least as material witnesses.

Miss Nightingale also said that the third man in the conspiracy was her former Bangkok boyfriend, Mr. Lewis Chung, who gave her two suitcases to replace her old luggage before she left Hongkong. She did not know the bags had false bottoms. The heroin was found in those compartments.

Miss Nightingale and Mr. Chung had discussed marriage and she left Hongkong expecting to meet him in Paris within a week.

The court, rejecting Miss Nightingale's explanation of how the drugs came to be in her baggage, said she had produced no evidence to support her story.

Miss Nightingale appears to have had a fair trial by Thai standards, a British Embassy official said. Some other observers question whether a fair trial was possible in the absence of the two men arrested with her.

MP's plea: Mr. Barbara Castle, Labour MP for Blackburn, last night asked Dr. Owen, the Foreign Secretary, to ensure that Miss Nightingale was being properly treated. She wants to have Miss Nightingale deported to England.

Miss Castle's plans to meet Dr. Owen next week to discuss the case, but there seems little likelihood of much Government action, yet because an appeal is being considered. She is convinced that Miss Nightingale is innocent and has built up a dossier which Dr. Owen has agreed to study.

A journalist who saw Miss Nightingale 10 days ago, said last night that she had looked remarkably well and cheerful. Miss P. Blair, deputy editor of the *Health and Social Service Journal*, said she had originally shared a cell with 22 other girls, but later was in one with eight, including a girl who spoke English.

The Porcia Trust, a charity based at Worthington, Cumbria, which specializes in helping individuals in regards as victims of injustice, announced last night that it was setting up an appeal fund to pay for a lawyer to travel to Thailand to represent Miss Nightingale.

Despite the brevity of the final communiqué, observers believe that today's meeting marks a significant advance.

It was widely recognized that the biggest difficulty to be overcome was the franchise question. Yesterday Bishop Muzorewa declared that the one-man one-vote principle was "absolutely non-negotiable" and he reserved the right for his delegation to walk out of the talks if it was not accepted.

The fact that he did not walk out and that progress is said to have been made suggests he is satisfied that Mr. Smith's statement on November 2 meant one-man one-vote.

Mr. Smith is, however, seeking certain safeguards before committing himself to a settlement based on universal adult suffrage. Principal among these is understood to be acceptance by the nationalists that whites should have a blocking third of the votes in Parliament for a number of years after a black majority rule is achieved.

Speculation that Mr. Joshua Nkomo, one of the co-leaders of the externally-based Patriotic Front, might return to take part in the settlement negotiations has been raised once again by a statement by Mr. Smith in today's *Rhodesia Herald*.

Mr. Smith said there was "more than an even chance" that Mr. Nkomo might return to Rhodesia. He would be free to do so if he was prepared to turn his back on terrorism.

The leaders of all three internal nationalist organizations have "called" for Mr. Nkomo's inclusion in the talks. So has Dr. Owen, the British Foreign Secretary. So far Mr. Nkomo has stated that he has no intention of participating.

There are several reasons why Mr. Smith would like to see Mr. Nkomo back. His return would cleave the Patriotic Front in two. It would also relieve pressure on Rhodesia's western borders where Mr. Nkomo's Zanu forces operate, thus allowing the Rhodesian Army to concentrate its efforts against the more numerous but less efficient guerrillas belonging to Mr. Robert Mugabe's Zanu organization based in Mozambique.

Today both leaders were present together with Chief Jeremiah Chirau, head of the tribally-based Zambabwe United People's Organisation. On the Rhodesia side Mr. Smith was accompanied by Mr. P. K. van der Byl, his Foreign Minister, Mr. Hilary Squire, Minister of Law and Order, Mr. David Smith, Minister of Finance, and Mr. Jack Geyard, the Cabinet secretary.

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## Yorkshire pits split over bonuses

By Ronald Kershaw

A split appears to be developing in the ranks of Yorkshire miners, who voted overwhelmingly in a recent national ballot against incentive payments.

At least two collieries, Glass Houghton, near Castleford, and Newmarket, Silkestone, near Wakefield, are strongly in favour of incentive bonus schemes and opposed to the views of Mr. Arthur Scargill, Yorkshire miners' president, who successfully led the campaign against incentives.

The decision by the National Union of Mineworkers' national executive on Thursday to permit local productivity deals with the National Coal Board has prompted Glass Houghton colliery to approach management for a scheme.

Mr. John Walsh, branch delegate, said last night: "We are not standing idly by and watching other areas get this money while we go without."

He said his branch first asked for incentive schemes at the pit, which employs 640 men, on November 1 and he believed that any incentive payments should be backdated to that time.

If such a scheme could be agreed, "we are only a step away from the £135-a-week miner".

At South Kirby colliery last month some 100 miners voted in favour of incentive payments were earning about £120 a week until complaints from the National Union of Mineworkers "stopped them".

Mr. Ernest Allert, a branch official, said his members had the highest percentage in Yorkshire in favour of incentive schemes. "We are interested in a productivity bonus scheme," he said. "Whatever the rest of the country has I want our members to have."

## Threat of 50p on bottle of whisky

By Patricia Tisdall

An increase in Scotch whisky prices of between 42p and 50p a bottle was threatened by the Distillers Company yesterday if the EEC Commission decides to clamp down on the industry's dual pricing structures.

The Commission has challenged the higher prices charged by Scotch distillers outside the United Kingdom on the grounds that it distorts competition.

A recommendation that DCL should cut its EEC prices is due to be put to the Commission before Christmas and a decision is expected early in the New Year.

DCL's response is that if dual pricing were declared unlawful then one of its choices would be to raise the United Kingdom set price by something of the order of £5 per case of 12 bottles to bring it in line with that charged in the EEC. This would permit the necessary promotional and other activity in export markets to be continued.

## Mortgage cut to 9 per cent likely in January

Building society chiefs decided yesterday not to cut mortgage rates yet, but there seems a strong likelihood that they may come down in January. After the recent 2 percentage point rise in the Bank of England's minimum lending rate, there is a greater desire for caution. It is expected, however, that the societies will come under increasing pressure from the Government to reduce mortgage and investment rates, partly to prevent house prices being driven up.

**Poachers on computer**  
The names of a wide range of people convicted of offences not considered serious enough to warrant fingerprinting are being filed on the Police National Computer. Such offences include poaching, vagrancy, being a suspected person, election offences, incitement to disaffection, wasting police time and travelling on the railway without paying the fare.

**Doctors seek protection**  
Junior hospital doctors are to seek a new agreement protecting senior registrars after their training has ended. The Employers' Appeal Tribunal upheld the dismissal by an area health authority of a senior registrar deemed to have reached the standard of a consultant.

**More hostel places**  
Battered wives, former psychiatric patients and the single homeless will get up to 2,000 more hostel places a year under a Housing Corporation initiative.

**Mr van Agt begins Cabinet selection**  
Mr. Andries van Agt, the Dutch Prime Minister-designate, has begun formal interviews with Christian Democratic Party candidates for his Cabinet more than six months after the general election that was seen as a victory for Mr. Joop den Uyl's Labour Party.

**Troop reduction hopes**  
Nato powers are hoping to initiate progress early in the new year at the stagnant Vienna talks on troop reductions in Central Europe. The idea is to work out an agreed base for assessing troop levels. Hitherto neither side has accepted the other's figures.

## Surgery by salesman

A medical salesman told a New York state inquiry he had helped a surgeon perform difficult head surgery. Another said he had helped in a knee operation. A state legislator called the practice of allowing salesmen to help in surgery "a burgeoning scandal".

**Belize deal nearer**  
Britain and Guatemala appear to be moving nearer to a deal in which Guatemala would recognize the independence of Belize, probably in exchange for a small slice of its territory.

**Bakers: A bread strike at Christmas is possible as bakers put their pay offer to the ballot**

**Ennals: EEC proposal to spend £650m over five years on modernizing farming in Mediterranean countries**

**Arctic mix-up: British trawlers, ordered out of Norway's Arctic waters for the fourth time on Thursday have been allowed to return**

## Mr Vance pledges help for Cairo

From Our Correspondent  
Cairo, Dec 9

Mr. Cyrus Vance, the American Secretary of State, arrived here tonight to convey to President Sadat Washington's support for the Egyptian leader's peace initiatives.

Cairo is the first stop of a Middle East tour during which Mr. Vance will visit Israel, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Saudi Arabia. In his talks with Arab leaders, Mr. Vance is expected to emphasize American endorsement of Mr. Sadat's moves and the fact that it would help to realize a permanent peace.

Mr. Vance said at the airport: "I am looking forward with great anticipation to my meeting with President Sadat tomorrow. . . . We want to do everything we can to support the momentum which President Sadat has given to the peace process. I will be talking with him tomorrow about the ways with which we can best help to move the process forward in support of the action which he has initiated."

Israel hopes, page 4

**MP badly injured**  
Mr. Austin Mitchell, MP, who held Mr. Crosland's former seat at Grimsby for Labour in April, was seriously injured in a car crash near Bedford last night. He was placed under a respirator in hospital. A man was killed in the crash.

## Multiple sclerosis

Have you someone or something to be thankful for?

If so, please consider giving towards helping us find out what causes Multiple Sclerosis. For if we can do that, we can also develop ways of preventing it and of treating it more effectively. The first will benefit future generations for all time; the second will bring welcome relief to the 50,000 or so in the UK known to have this disabling disease.

For MS attacks the sheath which protects each of the millions of nerve fibres running from the brain down through the spinal cord. As a result, they fail to carry their messages clearly and various parts of the body cease to function properly.

This results in varying degrees of impediment to sight, movement, speech and physical control which too often leads to paralysis and complete dependence on others for simple everyday things like washing, dressing and eating.

Tragically, it tends to attack younger people—just when they are beginning to make their way in the world, with responsibilities at their greatest and children at their most demanding.

This is the season when many of us like to remember those moments and people which have given us pleasure. Giving is a wonderful way of showing gratitude.

There are many ways. A donation; a deed of covenant which increases what you give by over 50 per cent; or if you will, a legacy. We'll gladly let you have further details.

Please address your envelope to:  
The Multiple Sclerosis Society  
Prepost 450, 4 Tachbrook Street, London SW1V 1SJ  
Giro number 5149355

Help unlock the mystery of Multiple Sclerosis

The Multiple Sclerosis Society of Great Britain & N. Ireland  
Registered as a charity in accordance with the National Assistance Act



## HOME NEWS

# Minority groups get 2,000 more hostel places in £17m scheme

By Pat Healy  
Social Services Correspondent

Battered wives, former psychiatric patients and the homeless will get up to 2,000 more hostel places a year under an initiative announced yesterday by the Housing Corporation. It expects to spend about £17m next year on supporting hostel projects offering a significant amount of care to their residents.

The initiative removes the barrier preventing the Housing Corporation from financing specialised hostel projects for minority groups, including former offenders. Until now the corporation has been unable to approve more than a handful of such projects because they have involved a substantial element of support for residents, making them ineligible for housing association grants.

The Department of the Environment, which provides the finance for the corporation, to develop voluntary housing associations, has agreed to change the rules. Housing associations can now develop hostel projects with a substantial amount of care, provided the care is "in the nature of a social service".

Housing associations will be able to apply for grants to develop purpose-built, or rehabilitation schemes for distressed groups in association with voluntary organisations, which will provide the specialist caring.

necessary for the tenants or residents of the projects. The corporation expects to divert about 5 per cent of its budget to such schemes, more than ten times the amount it has been able to spend on them so far. The first requests for grants are expected in the spring, and the first scheme is expected to open in about eighteen months.

As well as providing capital grants for much needed hostels, the initiative could result in more physically handicapped people being able to leave residential homes and patients in psychiatric hospitals being able to return to the community.

Thousands of people are in homes and hospitals only because there is no accommodation in the community where they can receive the support they need.

The initiative comes after a working group, including representatives of the five main government departments involved, agreed that a change was needed. Mr Robin Holmes, head of the housing policy division at the Department of the Environment, emphasised yesterday that hostels could never form more than a "tiny proportion of overall housing provision."

"People prefer self-contained accommodation and that still makes sense in housing terms," he said. "We are really talking about hostels providing a substantial degree of care, but not a high degree of residential care which must be a social services responsibility."

## Milk to go up 1p a pint as pricing system changes

By Hugh Clayton  
Agricultural Correspondent

The price of milk will rise by 1p a pint to 12.5p on New Year's Day. It will be the first increase since last May and will mark the end of the three-year-old milk subsidy and the start of a new system for pricing milk on the open market.

Mr Silkin, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, admitted yesterday that the rise would give farmers less than the Government had led them to expect. He had been asked to increase the price in 1978 would be and had calculated it at 5.2p a gallon.

Farmers would in fact receive only 49p or 50p, partly because high prices of tea and coffee had cut demand for them and therefore for milk, he said. He believed that dairy farmers had enjoyed their best year for profits in real terms since 1972.

His decision was immediately criticised by the National Farmers' Union, which said the move would be a disaster for the industry. The Milk Marketing Board said: "The housewife will pay more to cover the loss

of the consumer subsidy and increased distribution costs. The minister has effectively reduced the producer's return over the four months from December to April by about 2p a gallon," it said.

Mr Henry Plumb, president of the National Farmers' Union, said that the rise would damage confidence on dairy farms. He called for a new way of calculating the price should be found.

The Dairy Trade Federation, which represents milk distributors, said the rise in retail prices was too high. Mr John Owens, the director-general, said the price should be frozen at 12.5p until the autumn of next year. The January rise might stop the recovery from low consumption that had just begun.

On New Year's Day the transitional period of British membership of the EEC and present ways of pricing milk and other farm products will end. There will be a lot of farmers who do not understand that the guarantee arrangements are going to end on December 31, Mr Silkin said.

## Fears for Worcester's architectural heritage Empty buildings and signs of urban disease worry conservationists

From John Young  
Planning Reporter  
Worcester

"Worcester is an ailing city, showing no signs of early recovery. Its population is dropping, its historic heritage is disappearing, its business and trade are falling away, tourists and shoppers are defecting to other more welcoming towns."

Such words, appearing as editorial comment in the local Evening News last year, might at first glance appear pessimistic. Despite hideous traffic difficulties, which appear to have been exacerbated rather than relieved by a baffling one-way system, Worcester remains an attractive and congenial place in which to live, and even the drabest December day.

But earlier this year the Worcester County Council was surprised by a survey published by the local civic society. It maintained that more than half the properties in the city centre were completely or partially empty, a total of 261 out of 486. Of these 261, more than half were listed as of historic or architectural interest.

In recent months concern about the city's plight has begun to take more than a merely parochial tone. Conservationists are worried about the threat the "disease" poses to many of the 500 or so buildings in the city, but there is also a fear that the urban disease has afflicted places like Birmingham and Liverpool may be vulnerable to insect-like towns and cities.

The two problems both, in fact, and conflict. Ten years ago, when Worcester was enjoying an economic boom, the major threat was only the destruction of historic areas of the city to make way for new offices, shopping precincts and car parks.

Mr Michael Nixon, a lecturer at Cheltenham College of Architecture and former chairman of the Worcester Civic Society, concedes that the problem has since swung sharply in the opposite direction.

He maintains that it is still not aware of the enormity, and attributes the decay of the city's architectural heritage to indifference by the council. "They say by the way, the idea of conservation," he says, "but you can do something about it."

Mr Nixon became chairman of the civic society in 1974, after a heated argument at which activists claimed that the society had failed to be an effective watchdog. They were supported by Mr Timothy Connelley, of City Trust, who wrote the time to the society, urging it to take a stronger line in opposing the demolition of historic buildings.

However, a walk through the city centre today reveals old and new buildings festooned with "For Sale" and "To Let" notices, suggests a deeper



Empty premises and "To Let" signs in Meachepian Street, Worcester.

malaise. While there are relatively few vacant shop fronts, many of the upper floors are empty.

Such evidence of economic difficulties may well carry more weight among local people than arguments about conservation. A survey in 1976 indicated that every little interest in environmental matters, and more than one councillor has argued that many listed buildings are "slums" and should be pulled down.

Mr Trevor Wade, editor of the Evening News, which has strongly supported the conservationists, argues that physical decay and economic decline are closely related. "Progress is synonymous with conservation, not opposed to it," he says. "The two go hand in hand."

The council considers that the city society's survey was flawed on probation at Sheffield. Its interest in the city's heritage has been demonstrated, the council says, by the restoration of the Commandery,

which was used as the Royalist headquarters during the Civil War, and by its decision to forgo a compulsory purchase order on the late-eighteenth-century Commandery of Huntingdon's chapel. That had been scheduled for demolition to make way for an extension to the Guildhall.

Last year, a "conservation architect" was appointed to advise on finding new uses for old buildings and to designate protected areas. But Worcester is desperately short of money; it receives a fraction of the grants made available to cities like Bath and Chester.

An official of the city architect's department disputed the idea that the views of one or two councillors reflected those of the council as a whole. "If that were so, how could we have got them to agree to the designation of four conservation areas already? The real problem is that we simply have not got the powers that we need."

## PARLIAMENT, December 9, 1977

## Conservatives complain about raw deal for Servicemen

House of Commons

Britain's soldiers, sailors, and airmen were getting a raw deal, Mr Graham Page (Conservative, C) said when he moved a motion on pay and conditions in the armed forces and moving a motion calling on the Government to ensure a reasonable increase in the remuneration of Servicemen and Servicewomen in their conditions of service.

He said they were getting a raw deal relative to the unique and difficult tasks they had to undertake, a raw deal relative to other employed men and women. If there was such a thing as a comparable job, and a raw deal in the conditions under which they had to carry out their duties.

He had received no direct complaints from Servicemen. The statistics he had heard were from those who had been with the service since they were young. He said that the average soldier's pay was 53p a week, the average sailor's pay was 53p a week, the average airman's pay was 53p a week, and the average civilian's pay was 53p a week.

An amazing figure that that average was that the average wage was 53p a week, the average salary was 53p a week, the average pension was 53p a week, and the average allowance was 53p a week.

There was mounting public concern about the armed forces. The Government did not share that concern. In the Lords two days ago, after a four-hour debate, half of which dealt with the Service pay and conditions, this was disposed of by the Government spokesman in less than 100 words.

I do not believe (he said) that the proposal for forces trade unions is made genuinely to improve the pay and conditions in the armed forces. It is made in the hope of directing the Army, Navy and Air Force into the web of social and industrial disputes.

How could it be said that trade unionism in the forces would have no effect on discipline, or that it would be a disaster for the public at risk. The advocates of trade unions seek trade union powers primarily and not the welfare of the forces.

The policy (he continued) of the Government was to pay a man on a petrol pump or on a paper round or pulling pints in a pub just not good enough. The Government must come forward with a positive improved policy on Service pay. There should be no waiting until April and a firm programme for reaching comparability.

Mr David Weisman (Hackney North and Stoke Newington, Lab) said there was a scathing article in the Times this morning and the Government must have regard to what was said there about the danger of soldiers leaving because they could not possibly exist on the wages they were now paid.

Mr Hugh Fraser (Stafford and Stone, C) said the forces were facing falling efficiency because pay was such that key men were leaving. But the Government was not to increase military pay at the expense of equipment. A new body must be established to deal with the pay of the armed forces.

Mr William Hamilton (Central Fife, Lab) said that, in regard to the pay of the armed forces, the Government was not to increase military pay at the expense of equipment. A new body must be established to deal with the pay of the armed forces.

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advantage of the fact that they had neither unions nor the right to strike. Since the Government assumed office the miners had had pay increases of no less than 113 per cent, the average industrial earnings increased by 68 per cent, but the Armed Forces had a miserable 48 per cent. The Government's pay policies had been more fair to some than to others. It had been those with the highest industrial muscle which had gained.

He would not mock the firemen, who earned every penny, but it was fair to point out that the firemen were getting £10-£12 less for their 34-hour week than the firemen had for their 48-hour week.

When he visited Northern Ireland earlier this week he was appalled at the conditions. There were units in Belfast and Londonderry working a 108-hour week. It was well known how deeply the Labour movement felt about the fact that the firemen were getting £10-£12 less for their 34-hour week than the firemen had for their 48-hour week.

The Secretary of State for Defence felt so strongly about it he attended the picket line. Was there ever for the picketing of a picket line? Could he discover any employer other than the Secretary of State for Defence who worked his employees a 108-hour working week, or find a single employer who paid less than 50p a week for a skilled and dangerous job?

If the Minister of State (the hon. member) could find any capitalist employer so hard on his employees, so mean, I will willingly be the first to stand in that picket line.

An indication of how widespread hardship was among the forces could be gained from the fact that in Scotland two-thirds of all married men of the rank of lance corporal or below were drawing unemployment benefits.

Was it right that pilots or air traffic controllers had to go out and moonlight?

Mr Frederick Miller, Secretary of State for Defence (Sheffield, Park, Lab) was asked whether there was any objection to members of the forces doing what many people in many other occupations, including MPs, do, which is earn money outside their main occupation and I said provided, and this is understood by everyone concerned, it did not interfere with their military or other duties.

Mr Miller said that it was wrong that men should be asked to go out and moonlighting jobs because of the pay levels on pay. They should be paid properly. The Government's attitude was causing a great deal of personal hardship. It was wrong that men should be asked to go out and moonlighting jobs because of the pay levels on pay. They should be paid properly. The Government's attitude was causing a great deal of personal hardship.

Where (he said) in seven years the Provisional IRA has utterly failed to make so much as a pinprick in the Government's pay policy. His constituents were working as fire tenders and were unable to supplement their income because the striking firemen had taken their places at the Mars factory in Slough.

## Noise levels in hospital 'unhelpful'

By John Roper  
Health Services Correspondent

Amusing noise in hospital wards is a little below the average found on a London street corner, according to a study by doctors at St Mary's Hospital, London.

Patients admitted for surgery slept less, partly because of noise. Noise levels in a surgical ward and an intensive care ward were measured. The study found that noise levels in the ward were 65 decibels in the ward and 72 decibels in the intensive care ward. This level of noise is considered to be a problem.

The doctors, led by Professor Hugh Davies, professor of surgery at St Mary's, conclude in their report published in the British Medical Journal yesterday that on the face of it the level of noise is unlikely to have any effect on recovery. During the day the level of annoying noise taken with background levels reached 65 decibels in the ward and 72 decibels in the intensive care ward. This level of noise is considered to be a problem.

At night the noise in the ward was 65 decibels in the ward and 72 decibels in the intensive care ward. This level of noise is considered to be a problem. The study found that noise levels in the ward were 65 decibels in the ward and 72 decibels in the intensive care ward. This level of noise is considered to be a problem.

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## Some supermarkets forgo profit to sell turkeys

By Our Agricultural Correspondent

Turkey farmers opened their traditional season of high turnover yesterday by saying that some supermarkets had forgo profit to sell turkeys.

Mr Raymond Twiddle, chairman of the British Turkey Federation, at a convention in London to find the heaviest turkey. He was referring to the use of frozen turkeys in the price war with which supermarket companies are trying to wrest the market from food from each other.

The practice of turkeys in the same marketing category as the turkey world today the average person has to work only 20 minutes to purchase one pound of turkey meat. Mr Twiddle said. The comparable figure 25 years ago was two hours.

Food prices, page 14

## Probation for man who was eight years in Rampton

From Our Correspondent

Jan Adams, who spent eight years in Rampton Hospital, was given probation for three years. When a charge of murder was put to him again yesterday he changed his plea to guilty to manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility.

Mr Adams, aged 27, had pleaded not guilty to murdering Mrs Frances Mallett, aged 77, a widow and his great aunt, who was found strangled at her home in Stanley Terrace, Maltby, South Yorkshire, in July, 1969.

Mr Adams, who was on probation on the day of the murder, was found strangled at her home in Stanley Terrace, Maltby, South Yorkshire, in July, 1969.

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## Rise above 10 per cent ruled out

By Our Correspondent

Mr John Gifford, Minister of State for Defence (Dorset, Lab), said the Government had no intention of raising the pay of the Armed Forces by more than 10 per cent.

Mr Gifford said that the Government was not to increase military pay at the expense of equipment. A new body must be established to deal with the pay of the armed forces.

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## Council plans to move into its own county

By Our Correspondent

Northumberland County Council, which for three and a half years has had to work from offices in another county, is likely to establish new permanent headquarters in Morpeth, about 15 miles north of Newcastle.

Under local government re-organization in 1974, the council found itself using its original headquarters at the Shire Hall, on the north bank of the Tyne, which had become part of the new metropolitan county of Tyne and Wear.

The chairman, Lord Ridley, announced yesterday that a special subcommittee had decided to recommend a £7m plan for a new county hall at Morpeth where 30 acres of land has been acquired.

The Government Property Services Agency is understood to be interested in buying the Shire Hall as a court extension.

## UK position on fishing understood

By Our Correspondent

The position of the United Kingdom in regard to fishing now seemed to be better understood by other members of the European Economic Community, Mr John Silkin, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said in a statement.

Reporting on the meeting of EEC agricultural ministers in Brussels from December 5 to 7, he said he again emphasized that the Government's policy was to be understood by other members of the European Economic Community.

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## Woman accused of three murders

By Our Correspondent

Mrs Anna Marie Halvorsen, aged 33, of Meadow Road, Worthing, Sussex, was committed to Worthing Magistrates' Court yesterday in custody for trial at Lewes Crown Court charged with murdering three elderly women.

She is charged with murdering Jeanette Chalk and Edith Ansell, both aged 84, in 1974, and murdering Charlotte French, aged 68, in 1975.

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Secretary: Brian I. Callin, M.A., B.Sc.  
Pastoral Director: Rev. Reginald W. H. Piper, B.D.

WEST EUROPE

# Mr van Agt begins talks with Dutch ministerial candidates

From Our Correspondent  
Amsterdam, Dec 9

Mr Andries van Agt, who will be the new Dutch Prime Minister within a matter of days, today started formal interviews with Christian Democratic and Liberal candidates for his new centre-right Cabinet.

Mr van Agt will have the distinction of leading one of the most unexpected governments in Dutch parliamentary history. It was formed more than six months after the elections on May 25 in which, by Dutch standards, the outgoing Prime Minister, Mr Joop den Uyl's Labour Party won a landslide victory by gaining 10 seats in Parliament and becoming the largest political party.

There was general agreement that the result of the election could only be interpreted as a mandate for the continuation of the den Uyl left-of-centre coalition.

Mr den Uyl now will be the Leader of the Opposition, which in itself is unusual. Since the Second World War no outgoing Prime Minister has ever returned to Parliament to lead the Opposition.

Even the Dutch, used to the intricacies of forming viable, if sometimes unlikely, political combinations are somewhat confused by the present situation.

This is compounded by the fact that whereas it took Mr van Agt's Christian Democrats some five and a half months to decide that a coalition with the Socialists was out of the question, it took Mr van Agt little more than two weeks of almost leisurely bargaining with the Liberals to reach almost total agreement.

In fact, Mr van Agt had more trouble with his own left wing,

of which seven members have refused to approve his pact with the Liberals, than he had with his present coalition partners.

It is obvious that Mr van Agt feels far more at home with the Liberals than with the Labour Party. While a clash of personalities is no doubt part of the reason why talks between the Christian Democrats and Socialists broke down, the basic stumbling block was mutual distrust.

The rapidity with which the Christian Democrats and Liberals managed to reach an agreement is partly due to the fact that much of the spadework had already been done in the earlier talks with the Socialists, partly to the relative vagueness of the present pact and partly to the eagerness of the Liberals to govern.

The distribution of portfolios in the new Cabinet (Christian Democrats 10, Liberals six) also reflects the fact that while the Liberals managed to climb from 22 to 28 seats in the May elections and are now the third largest party, they are far behind the Christian Democrats who, with 49 seats, gained only one.

It is expected that Mr van Agt's Government will survive for the time being if the legislation it proposes is not too controversial.

It may prove to be difficult as relatively drastic measures need to be taken after more than eight months of caretaker government. The Socialists' opposition, however, expected to tread softly at first until the country's political temperature is taken next March when provincial elections will take place.

# £650m EEC plan for Mediterranean farms

From Michael Hornsby  
Brussels, Dec 9

A proposal to spend £650m over five years from the beginning of 1979 on modernising and restructuring Mediterranean agriculture to meet the challenge of further enlargement of the EEC was unveiled today by Mr Finn Olav Gundelach, the EEC Commissioner for Agriculture.

The Commission's proposals are aimed mainly at mollifying the French and Italians who have indicated that their approval of Greek, Spanish and Portuguese membership will depend on getting satisfactory assistance for their farmers in facing competition from the newcomers.

Mr Gundelach announced the Commission's farm price proposals for the 1979-79 crop year. These envisage an overall increase of 1.9 per cent in common prices, but a 2.3 per cent increase in cereals, a 0.5 per cent increase in oil seeds and a 0.1 per cent increase in other crops.

The real price increase received by farmers would vary greatly from one country to another, however, because of adjustments to the special "green rates" used to convert units of account, in which the common price are expressed, into national currencies.

The Commission is proposing that all member states should accept a minimum one-seventh reduction next year of the gap between the "green" and market values of their currencies. In Britain's case, this would give farmers an extra 3.25 per cent price

increase, bringing their total real increase to 5.2 per cent.

The increases for other countries would be as follows: West Germany, 0.8 per cent; Belgium, 1.3 per cent; France, 2.3 per cent; Greece, 0.9 per cent; Italy, 4 per cent. These figures are based on the gaps between "green" and market rates existing at the end of last month.

Mr Gundelach made it clear that the Commission reserved its right to propose much bigger adjustments to "green" rates before EEC agricultural ministers meet to take their final decision on the price package in February.

Ministers will get their first look at the proposals next week.

One of the most controversial proposals is the 2 per cent price rise for milk.

Among the package of Mediterranean measures are: irrigation schemes in southern Italy; replanting vineyards with higher quality vines and increasing marginal vineyard acreage to other uses in the Languedoc Roussillon region of France; improvement of marketing and distribution; and afforestation projects.

Also envisaged are a number of market measures, costing some £100m a year, including subsidies to olive oil producers, aids to fresh fruit and vegetable producers, to enable them to form co-operatives and subsidise export and processing, on condition that they guarantee a minimum price to producers.

# Pope opens door to East and West

From Peter Nichols  
Rome, Dec 9

The recent meeting here of bishops from West and East Europe has highlighted a remarkable few months in relations between the Vatican and the European nations.

The meeting coincided with the historic visit to the Pope of Mr Giersek, the Polish party leader. It took place immediately after two optimistic lectures on détente and Europe delivered in Austria by Mr Giovanni Casaroli, the Vatican's foreign relations expert.

The lectures in turn followed a sermon and speech on European unity by Cardinal Benelli, the Archbishop of Florence, at Unioneviva, Bari, in September.

The Cardinal, one of the Pope's closest advisers, argued that the Christian religion was the only possible basis for a future united Europe.

Mr Casaroli, speaking at Linz University, said the Vatican regarded the EEC with favour and had good relations with it. However the Holy See saw it as only a partial union,

and looked forward to a "more ample union" in the future.

On this Mr Casaroli made much of the Helsinki conference, which he called the first step towards a "new Europe" from the Atlantic to the Urals. The Helsinki philosophy tended to overcome pragmatically the ideological split in Europe.

Addressing the Foreign Policy Association in Vienna, he said that tension in relations between the Vatican and a number of communist states was now receding.

The outstanding example of this relaxation is in relations with Poland. There can be no doubt of the importance of Mr Giersek's visit on November 1, the first by a Polish party leader to the Vatican.

The Pope promised to support the Polish regime's efforts and to meet the country's economic and social problems while Mr Giersek publicly recognised the Pope as a great figure in contemporary history. He also left the impression at the Vatican that he sympathized with the Eurocommunist views of



The Northern Ireland peace campaigners, Miss Mairead Corrigan (left) and Mrs Betty Williams, arriving at Oslo airport to receive the Nobel peace prize at a ceremony in Oslo University today.

# Talks on Spanish police reform

From William Chislett  
Madrid, Dec 9

The Spanish Cabinet met today to discuss the reorganization of the police forces after almost a week of demonstrations calling for autonomy in Andalusia, Galicia and the Basque country. In several serious clashes with the police one man was killed and several injured.

The Moncloa political pact signed in October between the Government and all the political parties except the right-wing Popular Alliance, details reforms in the structure and responsibilities of the police forces, which have yet to be worked out and put into action.

They include the creation of two police sectors: a civilian one responsible for criminal investigations, and a military one made up of the civil guard

and the riot police for the maintenance of public order and to guarantee the exercise of democratic rights. The civil guard, at the moment under the control of the armed forces, would come under the Ministry of the Interior in matters of public order.

Senior Rodolfo Martín Villa, the Minister of the Interior, visited Madrid yesterday where on Sunday a young Communist was shot dead in a demonstration. This gave rise to further demonstrations causing more than 500 worth of damage to property. The minister said that the Government would pursue investigations.

He added that in certain circumstances, which he did not specify, the police were entitled to use firearms to defend themselves. He did not say whether the demonstrators were shot by the police, although he

# Stop-start trawlers may fish again

By Ronald Kerahay  
British trawlers in the north-east Arctic were told yesterday that they may resume fishing in the Norwegian sector. This is the fourth stop-start instruction since the beginning of November and the British skipper found that they will be stretched to catch their quota of cod before the end of the year.

All EEC vessels were ordered out of the Norwegian sector at the beginning of November when the EEC quota which Norway unilaterally imposed was exceeded.

The French then revised their catch figures and Norway said on Wednesday the EEC could take another 2,650 tons under certain conditions.

Apparently nobody bothered to inform Norway that these conditions would be complied with on Thursday. British trawlers found themselves fishing again. Permission was restored when the misunderstanding was cleared up.

# New move by Nato on troop reductions

From Henry Stanhope  
Defence Correspondent  
Brussels, Dec 9

Nato powers involved in the East-West talks on troop reductions in central Europe will be more likely to do so after the expected strategic arms limitation treaty with the United States next year.

Meanwhile, Nato officials have been shaping a new set of proposals which could be presented at Vienna, perhaps in February, once the common data base has been agreed.

Nato is still mulling over troop cuts which would bring down the force levels on both sides of the Iron Curtain to a common ceiling, and it is still demanding that the Russians withdraw a tank army from central Europe to help reduce the balance.

But the new initiative, it is understood, is based upon a West German proposal which allows the Russians to remove their tanks from the "east" but the equivalent of one-third of the divisions being removed here and there across the central front.

Two further concessions might be that the West will guarantee a ceiling for the Warsaw Pact powers to the last Nato initiative of December 1975, which offered to trade Nato nuclear weapons for Soviet tanks and missiles.

The council's final communiqué called for a "positive response from the Warsaw Pact powers to the last Nato initiative of December 1975, which offered to trade Nato nuclear weapons for Soviet tanks and missiles."

There is a feeling that the

# Monks dance and sing in Frankfurt court

From Patricia Clough  
Bonn, Dec 9

A group of Hare Krishna monks in orange and white robes and with shaven heads danced and sang to the beat of drums in Frankfurt's law courts today as 10 members of the sect went on trial on charges of fraudulent begging.

The monks are a familiar sight in many European cities where they chant and dance in the streets collecting money for hungry children in India.

The leaders of the West German branch of the sect are accused of sending to India DM15,000 (£3,700) of the DM2.4m they collected in 1974, and keeping the rest for themselves.

Investigations culminated with a police raid on the sect's temple at Schloss Rutenhof in

# Lisbon search for Cabinet

From Our Own Correspondent  
Lisbon, Dec 9

President Eanes of Portugal has begun talks in an attempt to find a new Government after the fall of the Socialist Government led by Dr Mario Soares yesterday.

After consultations with leaders of the three leading non-socialist parties yesterday, he received the single deputy of the National Democratic Union Party, who also voted against the Socialists, this morning.

President Eanes is also seeking advice from the Council of the Revolution, an advisory body set up to give him counsel on constitutional and national

OVERSEAS

# Israel hopes Mr Vance will persuade more Arabs to go to Cairo

From Edward Mordecai  
Jerusalem, Dec 9

My Cyrus Vance, the American Secretary of State, is expected here tomorrow night on the second leg of his Middle East tour. As he will be coming from Cairo, Israeli officials are hoping he will give them a clearer idea of the agenda of the talks at the Geneva conference, which opens on Wednesday.

Mr Vance's trip is seen here as having two main purposes: to reaffirm American support for Egypt's efforts in seeking peace with Israel through direct negotiations, and to widen the circle of Arab parties involved.

Mr Vance will be in Israel until Monday morning, and he will then fly on to Beirut, Damascus, Amman and Riyadh. This means he will be participating in the Cairo conference by the time it starts. (The United States is to be represented at the conference by Mr. State Department officials.)

The order of Mr Vance's calls suggests that he hopes to learn first the precise intentions of both Egypt and Israel, so that he can speak knowledgeably about the Cairo prospects in the capitals of the three Arab states invited by Egypt but which have not so far accepted the invitation. Syria and Jordan, in the light of their reactions, he can then discuss with the Saudi Arabian leaders how best to heal the rift in Arab ranks.

Even better than an explicit Saudi endorsement of Israel's strategy at this stage, from the American point of view, might be discreet Saudi action behind the scenes to persuade Syria, in particular, to moderate its intransigent behaviour and to ground for reconciliation with Egypt later.

Although some Israelis were irritated by the initial rather cool American approach to the Cairo meeting, they are now more than ready to accept the fact that here, in Israel, they are not looking for a bilateral settlement with Egypt, and that

# Salesman 'completed operation for surgeon'

From Michael Leupman  
New York, Dec 9

The operating theatre is hushed, hold back nurse, can barely hold back tears. All eyes are on the handsome young miracle-worker as, with astounding deftness, he uses the latest piece of surgical equipment to extract some key malfunctioning component from the patient.

After what seems like eternity, he looks towards his support team and smiles. The tension is relaxed. Another operation completed, another life saved.

The familiar scene from television soap operas is played out regularly in real life in New York's hospitals. The difference is that sometimes the man with the magic fingers is not a qualified surgeon at all, but a salesman of medical equipment.

This was revealed yesterday at state legislative hearings in New York, looking into allegations that salesmen sometimes perform surgery. The most startling evidence came from Mr George Schott, a salesman who said that in 1972 he helped a surgeon with some difficult head surgery.

He was, he said, trying to complete the sale to a hospital, which was not identified, of a new air-driven power surgical saw. The surgeon was testing it by cutting a round hole in a patient's skull, when it jammed.

The reason, said Mr Schott, was that the surgeon had the saw stuck at the wrong angle. So the salesman, who had practised previously only on cow bones, completed the job. He also made his sale.

Another salesman, Mr Larry Kluge, said that he was watching an operation to insert an artificial heart, which his firm had supplied, and saw that it had been put in backwards. The surgeon did not spot the mistake until Mr Kluge pointed it out; then he took the heart out and inserted it the right way, asking the salesman to press down on a leg bone for one or two minutes while the cement was setting.

# Setback in Egypt for Husain unity mission

Beirut, Dec 9.—King Husain of Jordan, returned home to Amman today after a 24-hour visit to Egypt for talks with President Sadat without flying on to Saudi Arabia as earlier expected.

Observers said the King, who is trying to restore Arab solidarity after the split caused by President Sadat's recent visit to Israel, probably will not go to Saudi Arabia before next week. He met President Assad of Syria in Damascus earlier this week.

Reports from Cairo indicated that the King's talks with Mr Sadat had not gone well.

The official Middle East News agency quoted the President as saying that the King had offered to mediate between Egypt and Syria, but had "a wrong understanding of the concept of Arab solidarity."

Mr Sadat was also quoted as saying, "I regretted King Husain's decision not to extend the two-Geneva talks with Israel and the United States to Cairo next week, unless all parties to the Middle East conflict took part."

In Kuwait meanwhile, President Assad met Kuwaiti leaders on a tour aimed at rallying Arab oil states against Mr Sadat.

Mr Assad arrived from Saudi Arabia last week, on his way to his four-day tour of Arab oil states in the United Arab Emirates and Qatar.

The oil states, financial backers of the three Arab confrontation countries—Egypt, Syria and Jordan—disapprove of the Egyptian move, but are expected to urge moderation.

Agence France Presse and Reuters.

# Brandt North-South commission meets

Bonn, Dec 9.—Herr Willy Brandt, the former West German Chancellor, today warned the world against expecting too much from the new International Commission on Development Issues, set up to improve relations between industrialized and developing nations. Chaired by Hans Egon Helber, it consists of seven representatives from the industrial countries and nine from developing nations.

It was formed on the initiative of Mr Robert McNamara, the West Bank president, when the North-South dialogue in Paris achieved only meagre results.

Addressing commission members and guests at the opening ceremony in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Mr Brandt said no one could be certain whether the commission would succeed in adopting a common standpoint at the end of the 18-month work.

Speaking last night, he said it was worth while attempting to improve cooperation between industrial nations and developing states in the interest of world peace. "I am looking forward to the intellectual adventure which we are engaged in here," he added.

Four other former heads of

# More South Africans die in border war with Swapo

From Our Correspondent  
Johannesburg, Dec 9

Three more South African soldiers have been killed on the border of Namibia (South-West Africa) and Angola in what is developing into a sharply intensified war with Swapo (South-West Africa People's Organisation) guerrillas.

Scant details released by Defence Headquarters in Pretoria today said that the soldiers—a sergeant, corporal and rifleman—were killed near the border. The sergeant added that "drag marks were later found in the area indicating that some terrorists may have been killed or wounded."

As usual, the Pretoria statement gave no indication of how many South Africans were wounded, just over a month ago. South Africa announced the death of a lieutenant and six NCOs in a border clash, and it is noted here that the latest figures include two more NCOs.

Swapo is mounting a much more serious attack than it was a year ago, and the South Africans are determined not to withdraw troops while a threat to peace exists. That is the belief that the Ovambo homeland which faces the border could be overrun in 48 hours if the South African Army pulled out.

# Deal on Belize independence in sight

By Roger Barthod  
Belize and Guatemala appear to be moving nearer to a deal in which Guatemala would recognize the independence of Belize, whose territory it has long claimed, probably in exchange for suit "slice" of the British colony.

A Foreign Office spokesman said yesterday that Mr. Macdonald, a British minister, had been having "confidential" exploratory discussions with the Guatemalan in an attempt to establish a basis for a further round of negotiations.

The last full negotiations took place in Washington in July, coinciding with British doubting and his teacher, the British have been in Belize after Guatemalan troop movements

on the border. Mr Edward Rowlands, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, had talks in Guatemala City later that month.

The latest talks have been mainly in the "margin" of the United Nations.

The spokesman said: "No agreements have been made, but we are prepared to consider all possible elements which might contribute to a peaceful settlement, providing the terms are acceptable to the Government and people of Belize. The Belize Government has been kept informed of the exploratory discussions."

The strong implication is that some sort of territorial deal is possible, providing it can be made acceptable to Mr George Price, the Belize Premier, who attended the Washington negotiations.

Bridgetown, Barbados, Dec 9.—Officials of nine Caribbean and Latin American countries met in Jamaica today to discuss developments in the Belize-Guatemala territorial dispute, including reported pressures on Belize to cede land to Guatemala.

Mr Henry Ford, the Barbados Foreign Minister, who chaired the Commonwealth committee monitoring the problem, said yesterday that Barbados was hoping that the Jamaica meeting would reinforce any question of surrender of land. Barbados would in no circumstances support the idea of land cession.—Reuter.

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Patron: HM Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother.

## Seamen's strike threat to Channel sailings

Paris, Dec 9.—French seamen today decided to halt French ferry services between France and England on Monday and Tuesday.

Union sources said they would also try to stop boarding and landing of non-French ships.

Ports affected are La Havre, Dieppe, Calais, Boulogne and Dunkirk.

## Bonn Vice-Chancellor leaves hospital

Bonn, Dec 9.—Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Vice-Chancellor and Foreign Minister, was discharged from hospital here today after two weeks.

## M Giscard d'Estaing dines with teachers

Paris, Dec 9.—President Giscard d'Estaing, who has made it an occasional practice to dine with an ordinary French family, was the guest of M Jean Marie, a headmaster, and his teacher, the Marthe, at a meal last night.

## Deal on Belize independence in sight

By Roger Barthod  
Belize and Guatemala appear to be moving nearer to a deal in which Guatemala would recognize the independence of Belize, whose territory it has long claimed, probably in exchange for suit "slice" of the British colony.

A Foreign Office spokesman said yesterday that Mr. Macdonald, a British minister, had been having "confidential" exploratory discussions with the Guatemalan in an attempt to establish a basis for a further round of negotiations.

The last full negotiations took place in Washington in July, coinciding with British doubting and his teacher, the British have been in Belize after Guatemalan troop movements

on the border. Mr Edward Rowlands, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, had talks in Guatemala City later that month.

The latest talks have been mainly in the "margin" of the United Nations.

The spokesman said: "No agreements have been made, but we are prepared to consider all possible elements which might contribute to a peaceful settlement, providing the terms are acceptable to the Government and people of Belize. The Belize Government has been kept informed of the exploratory discussions."

The strong implication is that some sort of territorial deal is possible, providing it can be made acceptable to Mr George Price, the Belize Premier, who attended the Washington negotiations.

Bridgetown, Barbados, Dec 9.—Officials of nine Caribbean and Latin American countries met in Jamaica today to discuss developments in the Belize-Guatemala territorial dispute, including reported pressures on Belize to cede land to Guatemala.

Mr Henry Ford, the Barbados Foreign Minister, who chaired the Commonwealth committee monitoring the problem, said yesterday that Barbados was hoping that the Jamaica meeting would reinforce any question of surrender of land. Barbados would in no circumstances support the idea of land cession.—Reuter.

## Factory blast kills 21

Cartagena, Colombia, Dec 9.—Twenty-one workers were killed and 30 injured in an explosion and fire at midnight at the Abasco fertilizer plant on the outskirts of Cartagena.

Company sources said that machinery in the ammonia treatment section had exploded, starting fires and releasing toxic gases. They estimated damage at \$2m (£1.1m). Residents fled from a village near by after about 10 children were affected by the blast.—Reuter.

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Five people killed  
  
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Bhutto rival  
wins bail  
and flies home  
  
From Our Correspondent  
Karachi, Dec 9  
The Pakistan People's Party (PPP) leader, Mr Benazir Bhutto, who was arrested last week, has been granted bail and is expected to leave the country today.

Mr Bhutto was arrested on charges of conspiring to overthrow the government. He was held in custody for several days before being granted bail.

The PPP is a major political party in Pakistan, and Mr Bhutto is a prominent figure in the party. His arrest had caused widespread concern and speculation about the future of the party and the country.

Mr Bhutto's release is seen as a victory for the PPP and a setback for the government. It is expected that he will continue to play a significant role in Pakistani politics.



# England approach first Test with encouraging all-round form

From John Woodcock  
Cricket Correspondent  
Peshawar

The England cricketers bowled and fielded well here today, dismissing the Governor XI in lovely weather for 27. Rather than enforce the follow-on, as they were in a position to do, they were again themselves, to give Randall, Rose, Taylor and Bodman the chance of batting practice, by close of play the Englandmen, by 211 runs with nine second innings wickets in hand.

Considering that this was only the eighth day of the tour, of which the first three were a wot pitch, things are shaping quite encouragingly. Boycott, Rose and Bodman have scored hundreds; Brearley, who has made five fifties, and today Old Willis, Lever and Miller looked in good enough form to give a fair chance of themselves in next week's first Test match.

It is more as a public relations exercise than anything, I think, that the Board of Control for Cricket in Pakistan have been to touch, or have said that they will be getting in touch, with their Test players currently appearing for Kerry Packer, to ask them whether they could make themselves available for the coming Test series. Because of the way the board have handled it, the defection of Mushtaq, Majid and the rest to Mr Packer is seen as being something the players had no option but to do.

To shift the blame to the Inter-

## Fredericks's 100 enables W Indians to coast home

Bombay, Dec 9.—Roy Fredericks scored a brilliant century today to lead a West Indian XI to an effortless win over a World XI in their two-day 75 overs-a-side world series match. The 23-year-old Fredericks scored the winning run high over mid-wicket for six off Underwood.

The World XI, who took 57 wickets to secure a narrow victory yesterday, could not combat the power of the West Indian batsmen who took 43 wickets to score 225 for four. The West Indians resumed this morning at 10.15 and scored an amazing 100 runs when Vivian Richards was out for 34 in the first over from Snow. Snow broke through again in his second over, dismissing Richards to make the West Indians 78 for 3.

The wicket was the World XI's last hope of victory. Fredericks, who was the West Indian captain, Lloyd hit the ball to all parts of

## Hughes has strong Test claim

Perth, Australia, Dec 9.—Western Australia's Kim Hughes has probably won a place in Australia's team for the second Test here next week. He scored a dazzling 99 against the Indians today. The 23-year-old Hughes was the first batsman to reach 100 in the first Test in Brisbane.

Western Australia won the toss and batted on a very unresponsive pitch that reached 315 for five at the close—soon after Hughes had allowed frustration to get the better of him. He attempted a big hit off Fraser and skied a catch to mid-on. Until he was trapped down for 23 minutes in the 9th his innings was full of scorching drives, crisp cuts, and mighty pulls.

## Pakistan seek Packer men

Adelaide, Dec 10.—Four Pakistanis contracted to Kerry Packer's new cricket league today in the search for an end to the upheaval caused by Packer's move to traditional cricket. The Pakistan players, including Mohammad, Zaheer Abbas, Imran Khan and Majid Khan, were not permitted to play in the first Test of the series between Pakistan and England starting on Wednesday.

The four, who are under contract to the Packer series for the next three months, are very disappointed that their cricket authorities had lifted a ban on them playing in the first Test. The captain of Pakistan, who will be joined by the Packer series, said only the Pakistan cricket authorities and the Packer organisation could

## Yorkshire put up prices for next season

An all-round increase in subscription rates for members of Yorkshire County Cricket Club in 1978 was announced today. Full members will now pay £14 instead of £12. Other increases will be made in the case of tickets for non-members will be £2.20 at the Headingley Test match, £1 at the Yorkshire three-day derby and £1.50 at Sunday games.

MELBOURNE, Sheffield: Yorkshire County Cricket Club announced today that it had decided to increase its subscription rates for the 1978 season.

## The Mahres, amiable all-American advertisements A twin threat to the slalom giants

By John Hennessy  
Val d'Isere, Dec 9

Two days ago, French twins of an earlier era, Ingrid and Britta Laffont, were spectators at a World Cup ski race here. Two winners ago, Valentina and Piers Biffé, born on the same day nearly 30 years ago, were members of the British Olympic team at Innsbruck. At the same time, Phil and Steven Mahre, born within 10 minutes of each other in May, 1957, competed for the United States. Tomorrow, again, they are in the start list for the Supermen World Cup race of the season here.

Sitting, perhaps more than any other sport, has the dynamism of a roller coaster. Four Palmer-Tomlinsons were, at various times, British champions. There were recently four members of the Mahre family in the American team, four Milles, similarly, were once skiers in Britain. There has been a Mahre in the West German women's Olympic team since 1960 and Evi is certain to maintain the tradition at Lake Placid.

There have been three Mahres in the American team, four Milles, similarly, were once skiers in Britain. There has been a Mahre in the West German women's Olympic team since 1960 and Evi is certain to maintain the tradition at Lake Placid.

Phil (left) and Steven Mahre, from White Pass: identical, give or take an inch in height and a broken nose.

Neither thrives on the downhill, probably because slalom and giant slalom were the mountain sports that sustained them. Steven thinks that slalom is his stronger arm, though his brother, Steven, is improving. Phil's record, on the other hand, backs up his claim to be the slalom specialist. He has won the place in the Crans-Montana slalom last week, who can tell?

They have to be in to do some of the best slalom racing in the world. Their temperatures are comparatively high back home and the slalom is virtually unknown in Europe. In a competition place in Europe, they are called "the Mahres".

They are not, as Phil first stated, "a little bit like the Mahres". They are called "the Mahres".

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## Football Leeds are favoured by influence of the past

By Norman Fox  
Football Correspondent

In the past month Leeds United have beaten Nottingham Forest, Manchester City, West Ham United and Queens Park Rangers. Today for the third successive Saturday, they face opposition from London and will reveal whether they have the ability to close the six-point margin that divides them from the first division's leaders, the persistent Arsenal.

Leeds are now indisputably London's best representatives but they remain erratic. O'Leary, Brady, Rix and Sutcliffe have matured under the coaching of Don Howe and form a youthful talented foundation. The arrival of Jennings and Sunderland has added assurance and speed, yet by comparison with Leeds the team might almost be thought of as a callow.



Cross involved in West Ham's attempt to buy security.

With Loder returning after missing four matches, the Leeds side can be chosen from a wealth of international experience. Their purchase of Flynn was a shrewd move. The powerful and fast Graham have joined long established players to give a wider range of skill and overall Leeds are a more balanced team. They will recover the consistency that they lost among the top four in every season for 10 years after 1967.

The manager, Jimmy Armfield, seems determined to keep Jordan, who is wanted by Ajax but is not available, and stays at home. A leading scorer, Hanks, has a bruised hip but is expected to play. The powerful and fast Graham have joined long established players to give a wider range of skill and overall Leeds are a more balanced team. They will recover the consistency that they lost among the top four in every season for 10 years after 1967.

## Blockley on list

Jeff Blockley, the Leicester City centre back, has been put on the transfer list. He moved to Leicester from Arsenal for £100,000 in 1975. Early, who was Leicester's second highest scorer last season, is also for sale.

## Garwood's landmark

Colin Garwood, the Leicester City forward, has been put on the transfer list. He moved to Leicester from Arsenal for £100,000 in 1975. Early, who was Leicester's second highest scorer last season, is also for sale.

## Football results yesterday

Third division	Fourth division
Cardiff City 1-0 Newport	Cardiff City 1-0 Newport
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## Rugby Union Mixing good news with the bad

By Peter West  
Rugby Correspondent

Paul Dodge, the Leicester and York forward, has been put on the transfer list. He moved to Leicester from Arsenal for £100,000 in 1975. Early, who was Leicester's second highest scorer last season, is also for sale.

The success of the unfancied south western side in last Saturday's match against Exeter led to six of their players becoming original selections for today's affair. One of them, Paul Dodge, the Leicester forward, has been put on the transfer list. He moved to Leicester from Arsenal for £100,000 in 1975. Early, who was Leicester's second highest scorer last season, is also for sale.

## Weekend prospects

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Blackpool v Ipswich	Burnley v Charlton	Cardiff City v Tranmere	Halifax v Swindon
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## Scottish premier division

Aberdeen v St Mirren	Airdrie v St Johnstone	Alloa v Hamilton	Arbroath v Stirling Albion
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## Tennis Experienced players confirm their class

By Rex Bellamy  
Tennis Correspondent

Billie Jean King and Virginia Wade, past and present Wimbledon champions, advanced to the semi-final round of the Brierley Cup tennis tournament at Crystal Palace last evening. Mrs King beat Taya Harford 6-3, 7-5, and Miss Wade defeated Sharon Walsh 6-4, 6-3. The large and serene Miss Wade responded to these challenges by whipping through the rest of each set without having a single point against her. She simply increased the pace and quality of her tennis and exposed flaws in Miss Althaus's game that had not previously been apparent. Miss Wade's calm and steady play was a stark contrast to the nervous and erratic play of her opponent.

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## Forcing are exp

Miss Ruzici is jolly and sturdy and bounces about the court with irrepressible joie de vivre. Her racket work cannot always keep pace with her athleticism and her spirit of adventure. But yesterday she led 4-1 in the first set and in the second—having three times been within a point of going 2-5 down—she recovered to lead 2-5. The large and serene Miss Wade responded to these challenges by whipping through the rest of each set without having a single point against her. She simply increased the pace and quality of her tennis and exposed flaws in Miss Althaus's game that had not previously been apparent. Miss Wade's calm and steady play was a stark contrast to the nervous and erratic play of her opponent.

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# Saturday Review



## The year a new world began

By John Terraine

The idea of the pre-1914 world as a kind of "golden age" has unquestionably been overdone. The years 1900-1914 simmered with agitation, volcanic movements shaking the fabric of society. Every one of the advanced industrial countries was affected: in Britain, between 1910 and 1912, dockers, miners, railwaymen and transport workers were constantly on strike; Ben Tillett, the dockers' leader, called it "a great upsurge of elemental forces". Equally elemental were the women's revolts, finding its expression in the violence of the Suffragette Movement, and the Irish Home Rule struggle, with its threat of actual civil war. In France, between 1906 and 1910 strikes were so frequent, so violent, so revolutionary in character that mobilization of the strikers into the army proved the only remedy against them. In Germany, the Marxist Social-Democrats became the largest party in the Reichstag. Less advanced countries were even more seriously affected: revolution in Russia in 1905, and in Spain in 1909, the year of Barcelona's "Semana Tragica". All this ferment was duly reflected in avant-garde art: French Fauvism, German Expressionism, Italian Futurism, with its pregnant manifesto: "There is no beauty except in strife." If this was a "golden age" we need to revise our vocabulary.

Nevertheless, it was an age very far removed from our own. The fact that it was not "golden" does not mean that it was in fact, if we seek the first translation of the symptoms of our own world into reality, we shall not go back 77 years, but 60: we shall look at 1917.

First, just to make sure, let us regard its immediate predecessors. It is my belief that the old world, the old nineteenth-century world, lingered on right into 1915. Even the

war itself, though it was producing lethal novelties every day for the harassment of mankind, still had an old-fashioned look about it. The German infantry, despite their modern weapons, still wore the spiked helmets which they had worn in 1866 and 1870; so did much of their cavalry, while the famous Uhlans wore the flat topped caps whose origins are in Polish national costume. The Austro-Hungarian army was a pretty sight in red and blue, all wearing the pelisse which the British had left off as long ago as Salavara. The French were incredible: dragons and cuirassiers who seemed to have come straight off the field of Waterloo; infantry in red breeches, dark blue coats and red képis, virtually indistinguishable from those of 1870-71, colonial Zouaves and Turcos—dressed exactly as for the Alma or Sebastopol. Even the British in their businesslike khaki were an anachronism; they were all volunteers. And looking up at the sky, the new dimension of war that 1914 had introduced, what one saw and wondered at was the Jules Verne apparition of the mighty dirigible; it was not yet proven that this too was an obsolete figment of nineteenth-century imagination, and that the future belonged to the frail, often ludicrous-looking heavier-than-air machines.

On this analysis, which goes deeper than mere outward appearances, was 1916 the year of the death-throes of the old world. In 1916 there was a change of style, a hardening of attitudes, new men with set expressions on their faces took the reins into their hands. 1916 has been called "the year of killing", which is not a bad name for it. The great battles of attrition, the normal "war of attrition" (what a word!) and various "side-shows" cost the three leading Western European nations nearly 3,000,000 casualties in that year: Germany, 1,400,000; France, 900,000; Britain, 666,000. Certainly 1916 killed off most of what was left of nineteenth-century attitudes and values. The world was never going to be the same after this.

So with a good deal of the old world now a ruin, we find a new world beginning in 1917 that was no more "brave" than

its predecessor had been "golden". Firstly, it came in with stage effects well suited to tragic drama. Snow, sleet and heavy frost descended on Europe in November 1916, ushering in one of the worst winters on record. It was to maintain its grip well into April 1917, by which time it had played a distinct and direct part in the vast changes now to unfold. In Germany, the premature frosts caused a catastrophic failure of the potato crop which in turn produced the "Turnip Winter" of hideous memory, which in its own turn planted the seeds of revolution in a now-distant future. In Russia that result ensued without delay: heavy snowfalls caused a transport breakdown, leading to food shortages and bread riots which turned quickly into revolution and the fall of the Imperial regime. We may as well start there; this was the first clear sign of the new world, the arrival of the twentieth century.

What happened in Russia in 1917 is unquestionably the most significant formative factor of this century. In the creation of the world's first communist state, scale was everything: it was all-important that a homeland of the vast size of Russia should provide communism with security even in its weakest moments, and it was no less important that a population of nearly 140,000,000 people could make up for all manner of material deficiencies. Awareness of this outcome can hide the fact that it did not all happen at once: the March Revolution seemed to point in a quite different direction, as the House of Commons Resolution moved by Mr Bonar Law on March 22 shows:

That this House send to the Duma its fraternal greetings and renders to the Russian people its heartiest congratulations upon the establishment among them of free institutions in full confidence that they will lead not only to the happy and rapid progress of the Russian nation, but to the prosecution with renewed steadfastness and vigour of the War against the strength of an atrocious military system which threatens the liberty of Europe.

Russian liberals and West European democrats alike viewed the future through a haze of euphoria; the French Socialist minister, M. Albert

Thomas, visited Petrograd shortly after the revolution, and according to Sir Edward Spears, "Not understanding a word of the language, he wept with enthusiasm at all the speeches he heard... he took like a duck to water to the Russian national habit of kissing males on the nose, and on one occasion kissed two hundred popes (Orthodox priests) with unabated zest."

It was the greatest tragedy of the year and of the century that this hopeful excitement turned out to be entirely misplaced, and that freedom in Russia was strangled shortly after birth—but that was yet to come.

Already, however, other unmistakable ingredients of the twentieth century were determining its texture. It is a century in which technology has increasingly taken command; indeed, our profoundest tragedy is that artificial acceleration of technology—due to two world wars which has so palpably outrun humanity's capacity to control the process. In 1917, of course, it was precisely the technology of war, and its transformation of two elements, that spelt the novelty, and in so doing brought into play the second dominating political force of the century: in that year submarine warfare and air warfare took on entirely new dimensions.

Submarine warfare had been a factor to reckon with since the beginning of the war; in 1915 it had achieved great notoriety through the sinking of the liner Lusitania, and all through 1916 it had been causing the British Admiralty and Government increasing concern. But it was in February, 1917, that Germany's unrestricted U-boat warfare began—the very name has a ring of twentieth-century ruthlessness, like "unconditional surrender" in the next war. And it is indeed at this stage that the two darkest retributions: a total of 6,623,623 tons of merchant shipping sunk in 1917, comparing handsomely with the height of the Battle of the Atlantic, 1942, in which year 7,790,697 tons were sunk. So much, without doubt, was an ominous warning; it will perhaps be the Soviet Union's present massive fleet of submarines that will supply the ending.

The transformation of war in the air was also an ominous portent. Zeppelins, vast, sinister, frightening, began to raid Britain in 1915, and continued to do so until August 1918: they were always alarming, but the damage they did bore no relation to their size. Raids by single-engined aircraft between 1915 and 1917 were mere pin-pricks. Then, in May 1917, a new phenomenon appeared: the Gotha G.IV bomber, whose two Mercedes engines generated 520hp, and whose upper wingspan was greater than that of any German aircraft sent against England during the Second World War. The Gotha could only manage a cruising speed of 80 mph, but three well-sited machine guns made it a very difficult target to attack. The first Gotha raid was carried out by 21 machines on May 25 against Folkestone and Shoeburyness, killing 95 and wounding 135. In the first raid, the final total of casualties caused by German air raids of all kinds is 1,414 killed and 3,416 injured—a trifle by the standards of the Second World War. Yet, as the Chief of Imperial General Staff, Sir William Robertson, remarked as he came away from a Cabinet meeting, "One would have thought the world was coming to an end." As the raids continued, and the Gothas took to coming over by night also, hundreds of thousands of people fled into the London Underground, and by September nightshift output in the factories had dropped to 27 per cent.

So another face of total twentieth-century war became visible and the passion it aroused had far-reaching consequences. Public anger at the Gotha raids demanded reprisals against Germany; out of this demand two things emerged—the creation of the Royal Air Force, and the setting up of an "Independent Air Force" which was, in fact, the initiator of the concept of a decisive strategic air offensive against industry and civilian morale. The force available had the types of aircraft of 1917-18 were puny by comparison with the massed squadrons of Lancasters and

Photomontage: Trevor Sutton

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a ruinous, shattering peace, with the threat of further disaster hanging over them. From the three consequences of this false act of the Bolsheviks were only by the victory of the Allies in 1918. From the dire consequences of saving the world has never been delivered. The October Revolution, with all that flowed from it, is the most significant fact of our time. The most important consequence of saving the world in 1917. One of the twentieth century—but as we have seen, history was not content with only one sign. History laboured the point.

■ *Times* Newspaper, late 1977

■ The author, a Russian, written for *The Times*, coincides with the publication of *The Road to Revolution: A Study in the Origins of 1917*, by John Terrence Lee

compilations of the past, Pollock's Toy Museum, 1 Scala Street, W.1 (near Goudge Street Underground station) sell a "Victorian" scrap album ready for use, with elaborate nineteenth-century cartouches, at £1.35. They also sell Elizabeth Ralf's little book. The price is normally about £1, but it is reprinting at present, and the price will "depend on the kroner".

**Bevis Hillier**

meny") in Dragon Gate's hot and pungent "consume" Szechuan chicken. Lively with garlic and ginger (£1.50), and the delicious, unfamiliar eggplant with fish sauce (£1.30) are less aggressive, and those who—like the presiding chef—like to keep the market for new ways with trips may care to consider the cold chili-sauce version here, with Szechuan pepper (the region grows its own variety) and a cascade of hot, lingering heat in the background (£1.30). "Silver Jubilee Enterprises" own this little place—which is not even licensed, and is due to move a few blocks in the New Year. Customers should emerge like all the best dragons: breathing fire.

Rasa Sayang, 22 Bateman Street, WY. Tel 01-734 8720. Closed Sunday. Must book. Lunch, 12-2.45. 6-11.15. Table d'hôte from R50. A la carte meals about £2.60.

Meat Hari, 34-38 Everaolt Street, NW1. Tel 01-388 0131. Closed Monday. Meals, 12-3, 6-12 (noon-1 am, Friday and Saturday). R15/steak £45.50. A la carte meals about £2.40.

Sat'z, House, 13 Sale Place, W2. Tel 01-723 6763. Closed

*mea*, *O. claytoniana* and *O. regalis*.  
The oak fern, *Onoclea sensibilis* makes dense mats of rhizomes and fronds 12 to 24 in. barren, oak-leaf shaped fronds, with the fertile fronds 1 ft. higher.

Good plants to associate with are *Cardamine hirsuta*, *Anemone hepatica*, *Primula pubescens* and *Tiarella wherryi* in spring, foxgloves, *Impatiens* and *Nasturtium* for summer color and, late in the season, *Kirenezhomra palmata*, with yellow flowers, and *Hebe* with dappled and maple-like leaves on 3 ft. stems.

Sources of supply of ferns include Reginald Kaye, Silverdale, Lancashire, and Perry's Hardy Plant Farm, Enfield, Middlesex.

**ROY HAY**

**PROSTROGEN**

P. J. O. L.

ORWEN, CLWYD, LL21 0EE.

**RADIO**

6.00 am. News; Tom Edwards.

5.03, Racing Bulletin 5.06, 12.04.  
 Sterns.† 10.03, Kin Jensen 12.04.  
 Paul Cambeckin.† 1.31 pm, Rock  
 On.† 2.30, Alan Freeman.† 2.31.  
 Rock and Roll.† 6.30, Sight and  
 Sound in Concert. Dr Feidgen,  
 Ian Dury.† 7.30, Top Tunes.† 8.15.  
 Acker Bilk.† 8.45, Radio Or-  
 chestra.† 10.02, Sports Desk. 10.15.  
 Wally Whytton.† 11.02, Ray  
 Moore.† 12.31.12.33 am, News.  
 † Stereo.

2

6.00 am, Radio 10.02, Teddy  
 Johnson.† 12.02 am, Times News  
 1.02, Alberz and Ma. 1.30-3.35,  
 Sport, including: Football; Racing;  
 at Cheltenham; Cricket; Pakistan;  
 Tennis. Bremer Cup Semi-finals;  
 5.00, Sports Report. 6.03, Europe

Wisc. 7.30-12.33 am, Radio 1.

3

7.55 am, Weather. 8.00, News. 8.35, Gershwin, Grainger.† 9.00, News. 9.45, Record Review.† 10.15, Stereo Release. Shostakovich. 11.15, Michale Petri; Hamcll, Van Eyck, Telemann, Berio, Vitaldi.† 12.02 pm, John Amis.†

12.55, News. 1.00, Piano recital: Beethoven and Schubert.† 2.00, Man of Action.† 2.30, Concert. 3.35, Mozart, Schubert, Strauss, Smetana.† 5.00, Jazz Records Requests.† 5.45, Critics' Forum. 6.40 Introduction to Sorcery, Opera, by Roger Fiske. 7.05, The Comedy of Errors, by Stephan Sorace, part 1.† 8.40, Personal View, by S. E. Elber. 9.40, Comedy of Errors, part 2.† 10.30,

4  
 6.30 am, News. 6.35, Farming. 6.50,  
 Yours Faithfully. 6.55, Weather.  
 7.00, News. 7.10, Your Farm.  
 7.40, Today's Papers. 7.45, Yours  
 Faithfully. 7.50, It's a Bargain.  
 7.55, Weather. 8.00, News. 8.10,  
 Sport on 4. 8.40, Today's Papers.  
 8.45, Yesterday in Parliament.  
 8.55, Labour Party political broad-  
 cast. 9.00, News. 9.10, Pick of the  
 Week. 10.00, News. 10.02, From  
 Our Own Correspondents. 10.10,  
 Service. 10.45, Between the Lines.  
 11.00, News. 11.02, The Week in  
 Westminster. 11.30, John News.  
 12.00, News. 12.02 pm, John Amis.  
 12.50, Weather.  
 1.00, News. 1.15, Any Questions?  
 2.00, Royal Variety, 1972. 2.30,

Weller 3.00, News 3.55, Does He  
Take Sugar? 3.35, Radio 3 5.00,  
Kaleidoscope Encore 5.30, West  
Eading 5.55, Weather.  
6.00, News 6.15, Desert Island  
Discs 6.50, Robert Robinson 7.30,  
Christopher Grier, records 8.30,  
Play: East 9.55, Weather, 10.00,  
News 10.15, Word in Edgeways  
11.00, Prayers 11.15, News 12.10.  
12.00 am, Inshore forecast.

**SUNDAY**

1  
6.30 am, News, Sam Costa 7.00,  
Playground, 8.31, Ed Stewart,  
10.00, Peter Powell, 1.00 pm,  
Jimmy Savile, 3.00, Anne Night-

6.50, Tom Browne; 7.02, Albert and Me. 7.30, Glamorous Nights; 8.30, Sunday Mail; 9.00, The Times; 10.02, Sports Desk; 10.55, Jolly Sentimental; 11.00, Jazz; 12.51-12.33 am, News.  
† Stereo.

2  
6.30 am, Radio 1. 8.03, Gospel concert; 8.32, Radio 1. 10.02, David Jacobs; 11.30, People's Service. 12.02 pm, Fame; 1.23, 2.02, Morecambe and Wise; 2.30, The Songwriters: Oscar Hammerstein; 3.30, Deryck Guyler. 4.02, Sports Desk. 4.34, Charlie Chester; 5.00, Radio 1. 7.00, Radio 3.  
7.30-12.33 am, Radio 1.

3  
7.55 am, Weather. 8.00, News. 8.05, Mozart and the Violin. Stereo. 8.00,

News. 9.05, Your Concert Choice:  
 Haydn, Beethoven, Simpson. 10.30,  
 Music Weekly: 7.15, Haydn's  
 Ring: Siegfried, Act 1.  
 12.45 pm, Words. 12.50, Piano  
 cocktail: Medtner, 1.30, Alizair  
 Cooke's Jazz 20.45, 2.40, Siegfried,  
 Act 2: 3.15, Talking about Music:  
 3.45, "Siegfried, Act 3: 5.15,  
 Simone Weil: Louis Allen on her  
 life and writings. 5.35, Journal de  
 Mes Melodies.  
 7.00, Anglo-American Relations  
 and the War against Japan. 7.20,  
 New Home Work.  
 Quartet No 4: 8.00, How Men  
 Reary, Inquiry into reputation of  
 Gerard Manley Hopkins. 9.00,  
 Schubert Symphony No 9: 10.00,  
 Play: The Force of Habit, by  
 Thomas Bernhard: 11.25-11.30,  
 News.

7.10 am, Apr. 7. H. Ch. Saranahib.  
7.40, Bells. 7.45, Reading. 7.50.  
Sunday Papers. 7.55, Weather.  
8.00, News. 8.10, Sunday. 8.45.  
Appeared. 8.50, News. 8.55.  
Sunday Papers. 8.55, Weather.  
9.00, News. 9.10, International  
Assignment. 9.30, Service. 10.15.  
Miscellany. 11.00, News. 11.10.  
11.30, Money Box. 12.00, Not Now.  
I'm Listening. 12.40 am, Letter  
from America. 12.55, Weather.  
1.00, The News. 1.40, Jimmie  
Galloway. 2.00, Gardener. 2.05, Quesada.  
Time. 2.30, Play: The Little Sister.  
4.00, News. 4.05, Talking about  
Antiques. 4.30, The Living World.  
5.00, In Touch. 5.15, Down Your  
Way. 5.55, Weather.  
6.00, News. 6.15, The Archers.  
6.30, News. You Think You've Got  
Problems. 6.40, News. 6.50, News.  
Beatdown. 9.00, News. 9.05, The

Publishing Papers, 100, Westhale  
 10.50, Newsday, Original 12.00.  
 Electronic 11.15, News 12.95-12.95  
 am, Inshore forecast.

not explain.... But where is  
 the logic in: I cannot under-  
 stand it, therefore it did not  
 happen?

One of the most enjoyable  
 hours spent recently with Radio  
 3 was provided by Paul Ferris's  
 English as a Second is Broadcast  
 which was an account of the  
 BBC's efforts to regulate its  
 pronunciation. A most distin-  
 guished committee was em-  
 panelled: Shaw, Bridges,  
 Kenneth Barnes were just three

all of those who contributed, but all the eminence only served to heighten the contrast with the triviality of what the audiences produced. I withdrew my sausage." Goodness! Rose Marnett's "sausage" is there is no historical ground for any pronunciation but "sausage." Here and at many other places we were on the edge of a Goonie radio comedy to which Mr. Ferrie's own narration was a perfect complement: sly, trenchant, and delivered with a certain tolerance. I hope the time he spends with *The Observer* telling people what is wrong (or right) with their programmes, will not pre-

Of vent him from problems  
further how-to-do-it demonstra-  
tions of his own.



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 **THE TIMES**

## Records of the Year: the choice of The Times critics



International Leader in **Medical Electronics and Technology**

THE ARTS  
John Wood

## of Gawain and the Green Knight

Sign W. 11

Valuation of the business

[illegible]

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1. The first step is to identify the problem or question that needs to be answered. This involves understanding the context and the specific requirements of the task.

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## Yellow Bandit

Wells,

**Percival**

London (Continued)

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2. *Quercus* *laevis* *Willd.*

1. The first step is to identify the problem or question that needs to be answered. This involves understanding the context and the specific requirements of the task.

CONFIDENTIAL

1. According to the text, the author's main purpose is to

1. Accounting

... ..

2. The Commission has also received information from the Ministry of Health, that the Ministry is planning to conduct a study on the health status of the population in the area of the proposed project.

1950

...with ...

1. The first step is to identify the problem or question that needs to be answered. This involves understanding the context and the specific requirements of the task.

... and ...

10

\_\_\_\_\_

## THE ARTS

## John Woodvine making contact

When Trevor Nunn's production of *The Alchemist* transfers to the Aldwych on December 14 from the Strand, the title role will again be played by John Woodvine at the head of an RSC company which also includes Ian McKellen and Susan Dury. For Woodvine, there have now been two busy years with the RSC: he's also to be found as Ramon in the still-to-be-produced *Macbeth* and as Dr. Faustus in the musical *Comedy of Errors* and he is already in rehearsal for the Judith Dench-Beryl Reid *Way of the World* which opens at the Aldwych in January. Before the company moves back to his Newcastle birthplace for another six-week season at the end of the winter.

Though now a familiar television face from *Boys* and *Inspector Wexley* and *Inspector Kingdon* in *New Scotland Yard*, Woodvine in fact started out as a classical actor with the Michael Benthall Old Vic. The son of a seafaring stocker, he was, born 48 years ago on Tyne-side.

"God knows why I decided to be an actor: there was none of it in the family and my two brothers, who have been chosen for a living, but in the Depression my father moved south and I went to Lord Williams' Grammar School in Epsom and there it all seemed to start. Then I did my National Service and after that, because I thought I'd never make a living as an actor, I did what the family said and took a secure job as a clerk in the office of a wool merchant. Only after three years the merchant went bankrupt and all the security I'd been promised was a myth, so I decided the theatre couldn't be any worse than that and here I am."

Woodvine went first to RADA in 1952. "A bad year that," Sir Kenneth Barnes was still ostensibly the principal, but effectively he'd been dead for years, and the new regime in a year or two later I was already out and doing the classics in Rep. I was trained by the old guard, which is why I missed out on the Flim-O-Tone revolution. While they were changing the face of modern acting I was out doing *Camille* on one-night stands round army camps, and very lost we got too, doing delicate stuff like that for the Pioneer Corps."

From there, however, Woodvine got luckier. "Benthall took me into the Old Vic in 1954 and gave me some quite good work including *The Merchant of Venice* and *Henry IV*, but although it was a very secure two-year job for me, I found it frustrating. They say acting is learnt by watching other people play the parts in front of you, but the essence of acting is doing it, whether for a camera or an audience; that's why an out-of-work actor is so hopeless compared with an out-of-work painter who can still go on painting. As an actor, you're in a bit of a bind, because if someone lets him on the stage."

Not that he has often been off it. "In 23 years of acting the longest spell I've ever had out of work was 10 weeks, but temporarily. I still think I'm not qualified to be an actor. I'm always sure that this

time they're going to find me out. Luckily, the subsidised companies seem to be as susceptible to television fame as the commercial managements, and all through *Z-Cars* I stayed in stage work so that I never got myself typecast as a television actor. I think I've been more relaxed, though I've still not immediately recognisable as any particular type of actor, which means I'm never at the top of any casting director's list."

Throughout this year and last Woodvine has been happily and gainfully employed by the RSC in Stratford and London, though he's not sure how much longer it can last. "Financially, I'm not sure I could afford another Stratford season: I've a wife and two daughters at home in Shepherd's Bush, and being at Stratford means keeping two homes going and an awful lot of travelling for the Pioneer Corps. Professionally the life at Stratford is better; you're in a community of actors who stay together because they're paying the rent, whereas in London after the show it's the eleven-thirty tube home. But while I was at Stratford I had to keep getting on the train in the morning to get to London and do a commercial voiceover, but the train before getting back on the train for a machine, and I don't understand how actors with families manage to live on an RSC salary unless they're doing a commercial voiceover. I've never seen a family in a Warwickshire road and then never go anywhere else."

"Nor am I scornful of television: I've just done an episode of *Return of the Saint* and it was marvelous doing that. But the more you do it, the more you value your life, and then going straight into *Macbeth* the same night. I actually

bought a house to be near the TV centre while I was doing *Z-Cars*, only in the six years since I've only worked there twice."

Mistakes? "One or two. I turned down the chance to be in the first season at Chichester, not knowing that the company was to form the basis of Olivier's National Theatre. Also I think I spent too long being RADAR 'classical' instead of using my own talents and my own personality. But in those days it didn't seem so fashionable to be a George. But I'm not good at looking back over my career: I still think of myself as 'promising' time there's still a lot I want to do."

"I'd also like to do another one-man show. I did Alex Glasgow's about Joe Wilson [the Tyne-side musician who died in 1968] and I did a course in Newcastle, itself where I seem to have spent more time acting over the past 10 years than ever spent as a child. In *Comedy of Errors* I set the scene for a play on stage, and that's something I'd also like to do a lot more of: in the end, though, it all depends what they offer you and if you can afford to do it."

"I did a year with the Actors' Company but that was entirely paid for by the New Scotland Yard money and lately I've not had a TV series."

I've never in fact made a lot of money, and I don't think I'm the kind of actor who would like to do a lot more of it in the end, though, it all depends what they offer you and if you can afford to do it."

Sheridan Morley

## Sir Gawain and the Green Knight Lyttelton

## Irving Wardle

The National Theatre's first homegrown children's show is an Arthurian adventure played within swords, armour, or panache. The show is based on the adapters of the best-loved of all Middle-English poems, Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, as humane as anything in Chaucer.

There is no ritual blood-letting of the Malory variety; in fact, nobody is killed, and the whole plot of the axe test and the chase and Gawain's pilgrimage to the Green Chapel to yield his neck to the Green Knight's sun-blow is a Christmas game, a game of the darker Arthurian elements.

Unlike the run of chivalrous romances, *Gawain* also has an integral element of the pious, scenes of earthly love temptation in the final trial at the Green Chapel. The poem must be struck countless readers as a natural dramatic material, and it goes to the heart of the human condition so thoroughly loved in Michael Bogdanov's

production, especially as it leaves the poem intact.

Based on Brian Stone's Penguin translation, Peter Stevens' text contains little dialogue. Most of the words are spoken by Warren Clarke's clown/Martin, whose alliterative narrative is acted out by an acrobatic troupe. By this means the show preserves such treasures as the description of Gawain's journey from Camelot to the Wirral, and the account of the changing seasons. For spectators too young to read the poem, there are enough signposts to clarify the visual action.

The show opens with displays of dance and tumbling, defined as the "jousting and jollity" of Arthur's court. With that established, it proceeds to take full advantage of conventionalized staging, translating Gawain's quest into a series of circus turns. He scales mountains of netting, fights a dragon, and is rescued by a knight who expands and contracts like a conch, and arrives at his perilous destination along the high wire.

Visually the whole show is built around the single motif of the wooden staff, which represents the sword in the forest and the cross in the final trial at the Green Chapel. The staff is used by the actors who expand and contract like a conch, and arrives at his perilous destination along the high wire.

Nevertheless, the movement in the last part of the work, which is the part with the tape, remains ziplily energetic. The LCDT dancers do not achieve the explosive quality which, say, Paul Taylor's or Louis Falco's companies bring to similar contexts, but forced to work at full stretch, several of the dancers manage to bring a rewarding exhilaration to the piece.

If that is performed presto, the two earlier sections, performed in silence, are respectively allegro and andante. The first, led by Siobhan Davies and Tom Joba, uses a trio of men and a female quartet. Anne Frankenhäuser starts the slow movement with a solo full of long stretching movement gradually taken up by the others.

## Judi Denchas Millamant

The RSC are to stage a new production of Congreve's *The Way of the World* at the Aldwych Theatre on January 24, with Judi Dench as Millamant, Michael Pennington will play

the part of the play. The production, especially as it leaves the poem intact. Based on Brian Stone's Penguin translation, Peter Stevens' text contains little dialogue. Most of the words are spoken by Warren Clarke's clown/Martin, whose alliterative narrative is acted out by an acrobatic troupe. By this means the show preserves such treasures as the description of Gawain's journey from Camelot to the Wirral, and the account of the changing seasons. For spectators too young to read the poem, there are enough signposts to clarify the visual action.

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I have never been much of a one for book learning myself. Ever since, to my classics master's ill-disguised astonishment, I crept through Latin and Greek A levels, I have held the view that the works of Sophocles and Herodotus, excellent as they undoubtedly were, are not the sort of thing to put a chap in the right mood for the necessary eight hours of undisturbed slumber.

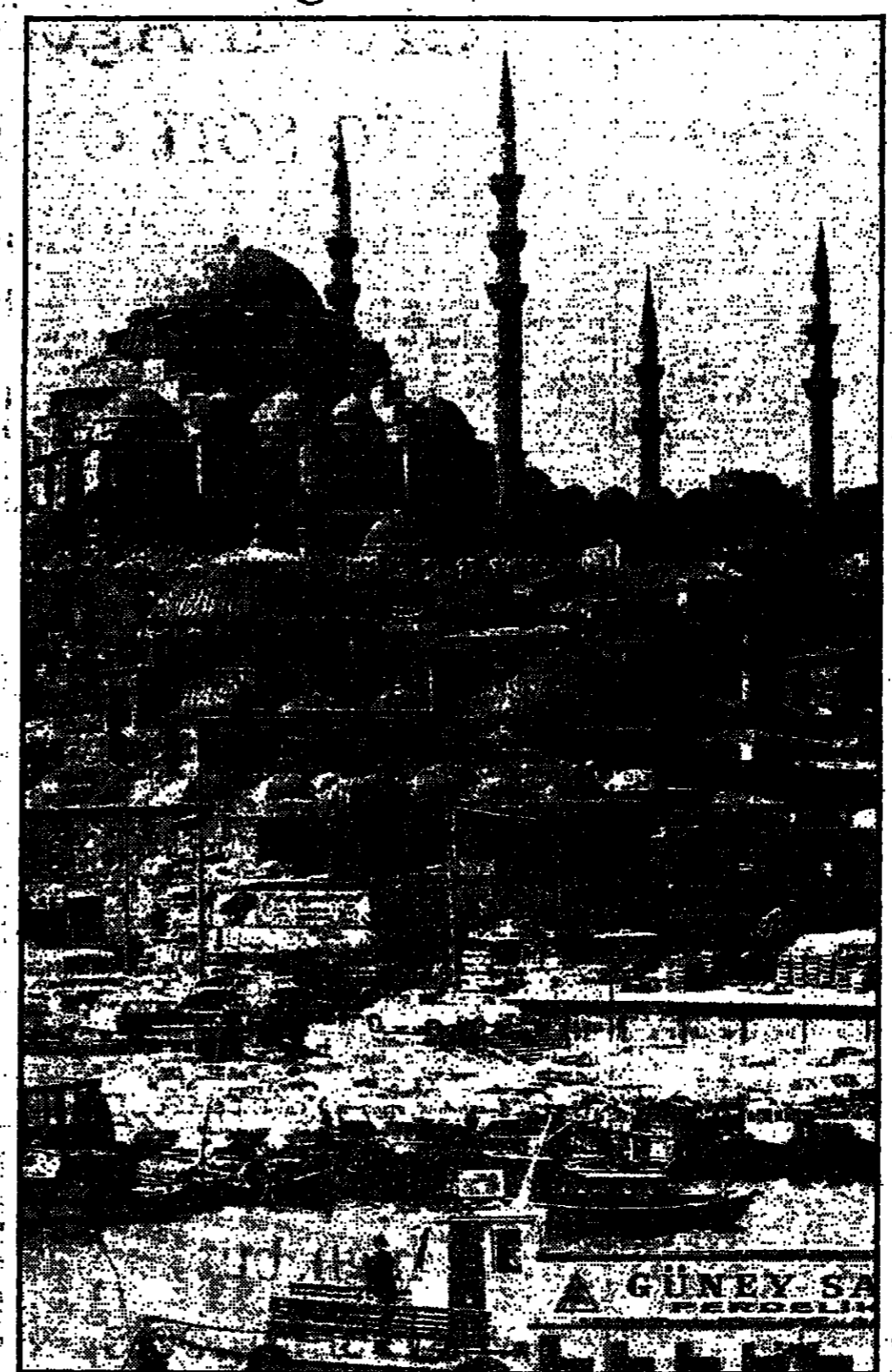
Nor, to be frank, have I ever thought very much of the idea of a cruising holiday. The prospect of being cooped up for days on end with a bunch of perfect strangers, the main diversion being the bar, bingo and the Captain's Gala Fancy Dress Dinner and Dance, would normally be enough to persuade me to end it all by diving off the stern on the first evening.

My wife holding similar views, it was with some trepidation that we embarked upon the good ship *Orpheus* after a languorous afternoon in Venice. The sun was shining, the waves were lapping, the Doge's Palace, for all we knew, may never have looked lovelier. But ahead lay stark reality: lectures, no less, on Greek and Roman history and mythology, and daily, or even twice daily, conducted tours of museums and other ruins. Not a racecourse or a discotheque within sight.

The next morning appeared to confirm our worst fears. We spent most of the morning driving round the dusty streets of Ravenna and becoming increasingly thirsty. Even the enthusiasm of Canon Guy Pennington, one of the guest lecturers and an admirable fellow in every way, for the local mosaics could hardly compensate for the general dreariness of the town. There was also a shrill-voiced American lady who seemed to have a peculiar obsession with St Martin and kept making notes in a little book; fortunately, we saw and heard less of her as the voyage progressed.

But Swans have not been ferrying people around Greece for nearly a quarter of a century without learning a thing or two. The next morning the world changed decisively for the better as we found ourselves wandering around a tiny and entrancing island called Korcula. All ideas of regimentation had vanished. We were free to enjoy ourselves, and suddenly all of us seemed to know that we were going to.

That evening, we spent in Dubrovnik. The old city is an unmitigated delight. The buildings are impeccably preserved, the streets spotless, the restaurants cosy and inviting, and the people as smiling and friendly as you will find anywhere. Meandering through the narrow, hilly streets, we were pressed by a local resident to come into his garden for a chat and to inspect the



The Süleymaniye Mosque in "shabby" Istanbul

view: it is hard to imagine an Englishman extending similar hospitality to two complete strangers.

Corfu, by contrast, was no more than all right and, on the evidence of an overland drive to a distant beach, overrated. The local guide implied that the villagers in the interior spent much of their time avoiding snakes. Crete, too, was a disappointment, or at least the small area that we had time to see. Knossos was hopelessly overcrowded, and Sir Arthur Evans's attempts to recreate the splendour of his momentous discoveries are not to everyone's taste. Rhodes was both beautiful and awful, enlivened by the package tourist trade, its streets festooned with overpriced souvenirs and the inescapable Theodorakis

music booming from every other shop doorway.

In between there were two mountain climbs. The first was at Delphi, a pilgrimage which I had made once before and which was as awe-inspiring as ever. The second was the ascent of the volcanic crater of Santorini where others, more wisely perhaps, elected to travel by mule. Walking was made hazardous by a slippery, stinking carpet of manure which covered the steps, and by the descending droves of stupid animals which did their best to push me over the edge. There was nothing to see at the top; drenched in sweat, we headed for the nearest crate of lager. The island's savage and sinister contours make their greatest visual impact at sea level.

If this sounds like griping, it is certainly not meant to. By this time the voyage has become steeped in that magic other-worldliness that is Greece. Sky and sea merged in an unbroken expanse of blue. Our fellow passengers, whom we had viewed so warily to begin with, turned out to be, with few exceptions, delightful. Their only peculiarity was their insistence on queuing long before we disembarked anywhere in order to catch one of the first buses, which seemed to offer no significant advantages. Lectures were not compulsory and could be "piped" to one's cabin; in fact, most of them were entertaining and well worth while. Anyway, the good places far outweighed the mediocre; Kos, where we had one of the most

memorable fish meals of all time, the walk up Farnos to the monastery of St John; the overpowering splendour of Ephesus; Troy, with its comic reproduction of wooden horse standing sentinel over the windy plain; the grimy mosques and smelly streets of Istanbul, surely the shabbiest and most down-at-heel of the world's great historic cities, but where the incredible Topkapı museum, the treasure house of the Sultans, makes up for almost anything.

Athens was almost too hot to be enjoyed or appreciated, and it is worth here mentioning that those allergic to high temperatures should not choose, as we did, to travel in June. At sea it is cooler, and most of the ship is air-conditioned, but inspecting unshaded archaeological sites in the heat of the midday sun can be something of an ordeal; it was surprising that the older passengers lasted so well.

But then, of course, many of them have been doing the same thing for years. For the "regulars" Swan's Hellenic cruises are achieving and inevitable; several recalled the former ship, where they slept in bunks on a sort of troop-deck, and from which they marched ashore in the wake of the formidable Sir Mortimer Wheeler.

The *Orpheus* has small but comfortable cabins. The food, with a choice most days of buffet or table d'hôte, is plentiful and good. The service from the English stewardesses and almost all the Greek crew is excellent. The organization is quite astonishingly efficient; at Dubrovnik we were ordered at the last minute to switch berths, but when we disembarked, there were the coaches lined up and waiting.

Two memories predominate. The first is of passing through the Dardanelles on a sun-drenched afternoon, with the lecturer pointing out the sites of the Gallipoli landings and drawing parallels with the Trojan wars. Those fearful words of Eugene O'Neill sprang to mind: "There is no present or future—only the past, happening over and over again."

The second is of the penultimate afternoon of the voyage, which we spent on Delos, the desert island birthplace of Apollo, and where the treasures of the Delian League were kept until the Athenians decided that it would be in everyone's best interests if they were moved to the Acropolis.

I wandered alone to the far end of the site, where the remains of a group of Roman villas overlooked a rocky foreground. A young American girl in a loose dress walked past, smiled and waved, and wandered on down to the edge of the sea. There was no one else within sight or earshot; yet in the blowing wind, and in the sea splashing on the rocks, I felt I was on that day I heard ancestral voices.

Prices for this spring and summer range from £270 to £325 a person, depending on accommodation; they include air fares, local transport, entrance fees to sites and museums, and guide services. Further details from Swan Hellenic, 237-238 Tottenham Court Road, London, W1P 0AL. Telephone 01-636 8070.

John Young

## Bridge

## System and the part-score

I was recently assured that "old-fashioned Acol", the bidding system which was most popular before it had been adapted to duplicate, was back in fashion. The feature, which made it superior to any other system, was its simplicity. Bidding takes the form:

East South West North  
No 2 Spade No 3 Clubs  
No 4 Hearts No 5 Diamonds

My argument will carry more conviction if you imagine that you have game and 40 and your partner North has opened as-deck with One Spade, East passes and you hold ♠Q98 ♣1072; ♠Q1076; ♠943. All the text-books advise you to pass because you have four points only and six points are needed for a positive response.

You will not find the answer by counting points any more than by assessing the mental outlook of West. The feature of the deal is readily understood; unless North has an unusually strong opening, you are sure to lose points somewhere. What is the wisest course? My view is that you should bid. One No trump is true that you may be raised to game possibly be doubled, or merely lose 200 points undoubled. But you have made the best possible bid to keep the opponents quiet; and if North gives you a second bid at the cherry by bidding Two Clubs or Two Diamonds you can afford to pass (which is not permissible as duplicate); and even if your partner fails you have done everything possible to retain the initiative. It is not a serious offence in the course of a rubber to bid without the proper qualifications when you are not raising the level of the contract, but it would be criminal to raise a partner when you offer no trick outside minimum trump support. At a part score in your favour the first rule to bear in mind is that opponents double for a take-out whenever they can afford the risk.

In coping with the part-score, the next stage is to grasp when to "buy more respect" to opponents than to your partner. Against vulnerable opposition you have a meagre 20 on the score, when your partner North is aggressive. Bidding takes the form:

East South West North  
No 2 Spade No 3 Clubs  
No 4 Hearts No 5 Diamonds

Again, as South, you can muster only four points and this time your hand is ♠Q97 ♠642, ♠Q53, ♠964. Do you rebid your Spades or raise Clubs, because North's combined bids are usually regarded as forcing to game? If you are wise, despite North's strong bidding, you leave him to struggle in Three Clubs and apologize if you have missed game. Nothing is less intelligent than to invite competition from vulnerable opponents when you are trickless. Your partner could have bid more forcefully if he was determined to be in game.

So far you have been under pressure, but on other occasions you underbid in order to obtain the maximum information. North has opened One Spade at game and 30, East West 60. You, as South hold ♠KQ85, ♠Q106, ♠A9742 and are in a position to misdirect your partner and become entangled in a freak distribution. Any positive answer will pave the way to a slam, but on account of the close scores South must begin by underbidding; he makes the lowest possible response which will keep the auction alive, and leaves his partner to guide the way to the final contract. North South have a certain rubber, but have they a slam?

The bidding so far is:

North East South  
1 Spade No 2 Spade No 3 Clubs No 4 Hearts No 5 Diamonds

South has so many positive replies that he must use the bid which will make certain that any high contract is sound. The least satisfactory is Two No

Trumps which North is likely to pass unless he has a great shape or rebids his long suit. Replies on a four-card suit are unsound bases for approach bidding and Two Clubs is not much better if a slam is in contemplation because the suit is so thin. Since South can choose any bid except pass, the response which is outstanding is at gross 'underbid' of One No Trump which leaves partner in charge and will not necessarily deter opponents from bidding.

The hand with its void in spades is best employed if South obtains the chance of a penalty from rash opponents who try to save the rubber. Finally, you have reached a winning position, in which opponents are pushing on distributional strength; but your partner has nothing to provide except a few trumps. If you are carried away by your three aces and 17 points into bidding twice with intent to penalize opponents, you will find that the boot is on the other foot unless you can secure control by means of a cunning device or through a mistake on the part of the enemy.

North South game and 40: East West game; dealer East:

Which partner was responsible for this appalling defence? East, because he omitted to follow to the ♠K with the ♠Q. West would then have switched to his singleton and whenever he was on lead, he would understand his ♠A and obtain the ruff on ♠10. East was principally relying for the penalty trick. As I have always claimed, you win by your opponents' mistakes.

Edward Mayer

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## Where does Britain stand in the fight for human rights?

The legendary editor of a North American newspaper used constantly to remind his sub-editors to "Kansas City milkmanize" their stories as they prepared them for the newspaper. What he wanted to convey in his tortured, but succinct, English, was that every story should be understandable to all the newspaper's readers. He meant no reflection on the milkmen of Kansas City or anywhere else.

Today, the human rights issue has both benefited and suffered from similar treatment; most people have heard of the issue but few understand its subtleties.

Human Rights Day today will be marked with the presentation to Amnesty International's chairman, Mr. Thomas Hammarberg, of the Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of the organization's contributions to the lessening of world tensions.

For the first time there is official world recognition that human rights and world peace are linked.

Just two days after the presentation of the peace prize, *The Times* is due to publish the latest in its series of articles on prisoners of conscience which is now approaching the century mark.

Only a few years ago all this would have been unthinkable. And though concern for human rights is not new—when President Carter was still picking peanuts, he was locked in the struggle for human rights—as one former Latin American leader puts it—it is now, for better or worse, a considerable factor in international power politics.

The former politician shows no reluctance when he speaks of President Carter, and even he would not deny that the new American stress on human rights issues is a step forward. But he, like many human rights campaigners, is apprehensive about the final outcome.

### The decision to cancel a grant

In Britain, the debate has been brought into sharp focus by the controversial decision to cancel a £15m grant to the Bolivian mining industry. Human rights activists and the National Union of Mineworkers (*The Times*, Nov 22) felt that granting the money would be interpreted as a "reward" to the La Paz government for its efforts to destroy the miners' trade union organization.

Whitehall saw it as an opportunity to benefit not only the mine workers, by making better equipment available to them, but also Bolivia's economy by giving it some badly-needed foreign orders.

Just as the United States is approaching the moment of truth in its human rights policy with Latin America in which hard choices have to be made, so Britain will soon have to decide how far the human rights policy should go. And the decision which will give at least a clue in that direction could be over the present plans to sell £30,000 worth of securities, military equipment to El Salvador, a country which has an appalling record of abuse of

human rights and in which there is a campaign against the Catholic Church, as a communist trojan horse, which is hysterical even by Latin American standards.

*The Times* prisoner of conscience column has sought to approach the issue from the humanitarian angle and to communicate to the reader the extent to which the citizens of other countries suffer curtailment of their most elementary rights. As Amnesty International's latest report shows human rights are violated in the majority of the countries of the world, and two-thirds of the countries in which abuses are reported in the organization's annual compendium are members of the United Nations.

### The speed at which the world hears

Since the column was started in March, 1976, the plight of prisoners in countries as diverse as China and Argentina have been chronicled and the writer has tried to show that human rights are indivisible; that it is just as important to investigate and report on the improvement of a Bolivian peasant seeking land reform as it is to write about a highly-educated and sophisticated Soviet Jew.

Efforts have been made not just to write about abuses in those countries in which information is easily available, but in some cases to communicate to London within a space of three hours or so. In contrast, information on political prisoners in Cambodia, perhaps the worst offender of human rights in the world, is practically unobtainable.

Candidates for the prisoners of conscience column from the United States, Britain and France have been investigated, but in all cases were released before the time came for publication. During the series so far, it is known that 11 prisoners have been released following an article in the newspaper. It is debatable, of course, how much influence an individual article has on any particular release, but in the case of three prisoners it is known to have been direct. In other cases publication has been withheld when it became known that an article would be counter-productive.

Officially the reaction of governments to the series, with one exception, has been to ignore it. On the ground, the story has been different and photocopies of articles have been widely circulated in at least one country. Reader reaction has been almost universally positive.

But it must be remembered that the world's largest democracy, India, from the start of the state of emergency, went within months from a fully-fledged Western democracy to something approaching a police state with at least 40,000 political prisoners.

The series, meanwhile, is being emulated by other newspapers in the United States, Scandinavia and Europe.

David Watts

George Hutchinson

## Crown Agents: the man to sort out the mess



Mr. John Cuckney

In the torrent of words to which the scandal of the Crown Agents has given rise, one person has been largely, if not entirely, overlooked. Mr. John Cuckney is hardly mentioned, and remains unknown to the wider public. Yet his insight and knowledge will be of first importance in the forthcoming inquiry, as they were to the Pay Committee's investigation.

Not that Mr. Cuckney was present at No 4 Millbank when the Agents were engaged in their deplorable transactions. He was, in effect, "drafted" there as chairman in 1974 to sort out the mess—an unpleasant and arduous commission.

John Cuckney, now in his early fifties, is a former—very accomplished—banker (he was a director of Lazard's) who in recent years has distinguished himself in the public service, not always in appointments that could be called congenial. Seven years ago he was dispatched to Liverpool to rescue the failing Mersey Docks and Harbour Board—again, a delicate and trying assignment. More agreeably, he subsequently directed the Property Services Agency at the Department of the Environment.

He might be described as the embodiment of intellect and candour allied to much personal charm. In addition to his responsibilities for the Crown Agents, he has lately become chairman of the Port of London Authority. You will be hearing more of Mr. Cuckney.

Meanwhile he welcomes the thoroughgoing public inquiry to which Mr. Callaghan has agreed under pressure from the House of Commons. From his

own study of the Agents' record he should be able to illuminate some of the darker aspects. He will certainly be an elegant witness—elegant in appearance, elegant in expression, and uncommonly lucid into the bargain.

While it seems right to set up a Tribunal, the proceedings will no doubt be distasteful, such were the Agents' excesses, especially between 1970 and 1974. Vast embezzlement has been admitted, not only for officialdom as represented both in Whitehall and in the Bank of England, but for several former ministers who failed to exercise their authority when warned of the danger. One of them, Mr. Richard Wood, acknowledged a degree of responsibility in Monday's debate—and he did so generously, even handsomely. Mr. Wood was not alone, however; there were others too.

This cannot be an "easy" or painless inquiry; but it may be a beneficial one in terms of future safeguards. Like it or not, a few weeks ago, I was regretting—and with good reason—the designations applied to Princess Anne, Mrs. Mark Phillips, and Princess Alexandra, the Hon. Mrs. Angus Ogilvy, expected, and have received, some response. But I never thought to see the day when the editor of *Debut* would be found defending their deplorable usage, as he did in a subsequent letter to *The Times*. I repeat: the daughter of a duke, royal or otherwise, is more properly called Lady So-and-so, never Mrs.

Then I heard from an interesting member of the Tribune group of Labour MPs. Mr. John Lee was formerly in the Colonial Service and is a bar-

rist. He had already written to *The Times* about the lack of a title for Princess Anne's baby son. He had this to say to me: "Although a Tribune, particularly in economic and social matters, I am certainly not insensitive to the fact that the Monarchy in its present form has a great appeal to a large number of people, including many Labour voters, and as a constitutionalist I object strongly to the hole-in-the-corner way in which the character of the Monarchy is being changed without public debate or Parliamentary sanction. I suspect that the same

attitude is responsible for the decision not to confer a Dukedom or a Earldom on the responsible for the incorrect designation of Princess Anne (and of Princess Alexandra), namely a misguided, spurious egalitarian notion in the Sovereign's advisers; whereas real egalitarianism is concerned with massive shifts in wealth from rich to poor for which, amongst other things, I for one am in politics.

"I also suspect for the same reason, that the decision is intended to indicate (tacitly so) as to minimise the possibility of public comment and criticism) that no more Royal Peers are ever going to be created; for example when Prince Andrew and Prince Edward come of age, or in the event of Prince Michael of Kent getting married.

"I do not reject my own criticism of the Monarchy, which I have expressed on the floor of the House: its residence over its wealth; and the apparent failure of the Monarch, when faced with the major constitutional change embodied in Her Majesty's Common Market application in 1971, to act as her grandfather had done in a comparable situation in 1910—by obliging the Government to call on a decision on the issue. The Shabby treatment of the bereaved Duchess of Windsor on her visit here in 1972 is another. Moreover I have said there is a case for a Republic. Nevertheless whilst we have a Monarchy for good, let us have it in grand style."

Many who are otherwise far removed from Mr. Lee will readily endorse his final sentiment. © Times Newspapers Ltd, 1977

## But first get your large size stamps

"The 10p Loaf Is Here" said the International Stores advertisement in letters more than an inch high. Lower down it showed the 10p tin of baked beans and the 12p half-pound of butter. The key to it all lay much lower still, in letters barely an eighth of an inch high which said: "From now on housewives will be able to pay amazing prices like these by using their Green Shield stamps as cash at International."

It is no use expecting to buy the 10p loaf with a mere 10p coin. You also need a special folder with 32 of the large Green shield stamps, each of which is equivalent to 10 of the small ones. To get those 32 stamps at International you will have to spend £4, as long as you buy them on the one day of the week that is designated a double stamp day. Otherwise you will have to spend £8.

The offers look haphazard: 14½p for a kilogram of granulated sugar and 12½p for a quarter-pound of PG Tips tea. They have two common themes, however. First, they are all basic, mass-market products. Secondly, and this was not stated in the advertisement, the reduction is the same in each case. The 10p tin of beans would cost 13½p without the stamps and the 14½p kilogram of sugar 27½p.

The booklet of Green Shield stamps is worth 13p when used on one of the small number of offers chosen by International Stores and other supermarket companies in the scheme. Super Discount is Green Shield's answer to its rejection by Tesco, formerly its main grocery outlet.

It seems an extremely long-winded way of saving money, especially at International

Stores, which has made a virtue of simplicity and cheapness by selling food under labels with a bright stark fabric in one colour and typeface, without the customary pictures and design wizardry.

Mr. Michael Groves, Joint managing director of International and a former Tesco man, defended the Green Shield discount scheme. He is keeping it quite apart from the items with simple labelling and confining it to goods with well-known national brand names. "What we are in fact starting to develop is a platform of choice," he said.

What International, numerically one of the largest supermarket groups in Britain, is also trying to do is to fight its competitors for a large share of the stagnant grocery market. Food retailing is now one of the most competitive sections of British commerce and further amalgamations are inevitable.

The super discount offer available in 600 International supermarkets will also apply to 14 out of 50 in the F.J. Wallis group. International acquired the group just as it was itself absorbed by the British-American Tobacco group.

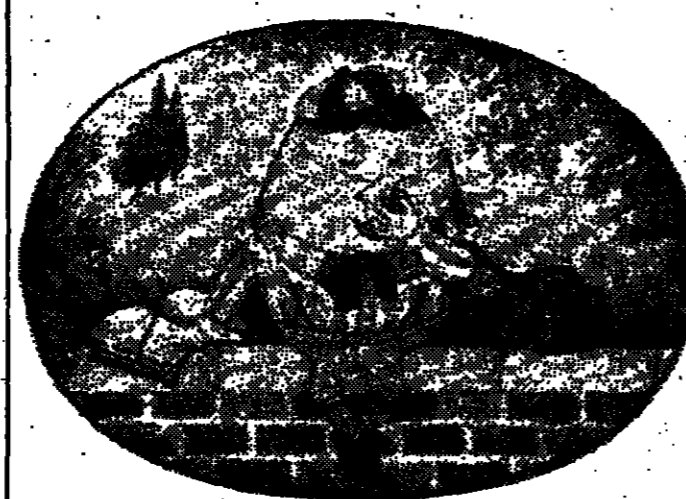
International has now stopped selling the 10p tin of beans. Anyone who wants that will have to go to Budgen, the second largest group in the discount scheme. It is also operating in several regional groups and may reach 1,000 shops early next year.

Is advantage for Green Shield is that it preserves large presence in the retail market even at the expense of circumventing its traditional redemption for "gifts", which will continue alongside the discount scheme.

The supermarkets are using it for the simple brutal reason that every customer attracted by the 10p loaf or the 10p beans is one customer less in a rival shop. And as Mr. Groves pointed out it takes no great effort to spend £8 for stamps before Christmas. "If you buy a bottle of gin and a bottle of whisky you automatically have enough," he said.

Hugh Clayton

## Biggles is flying high, but who remembers Mrs Munch?



Mary Whitehouse contrasts the "sheer delight" of Nicola Bayley's Nursery Rhymes with the "depressing, damp and rather nasty" pictures in Raymond Briggs's *Fungus the Bogeyman*.

Like so many other glamorous purveyors of culture the BBC's Book Programme sees Christmas as a time of the year when it may stoop to notice children's books. Ever questing for new ways to present the confounded things the producer has this year hit on the nasty idea of asking a hundred distinguished people to say what is, or was, their favourite and their least favourite children's book.

Tomorrow on BBC 2 at 4.20 pm a selection of the 43 answers received will be discussed. But by no means all the replies will be dealt with and the producer of the Book Programme has—with correspondence—allowed us to peruse the correspondence and draw some conclusions.

The letter of invitation did not confine correspondents specifically to childhood recollections and the body of replies therefore included comments on fairly recent books as well as on vanished delights like *A Tail Ship* by Barthelme—which Simon Raven recalled as having "strong narrative" and a "lovely childhood memory" with whom one could identify oneself. It was a pleasure therefore to discover that John Cleese read Arnold Lobel's "Frog and Toad" stories to his daughter, even when she was fast asleep; and that M. J. Peyton (who as a child had Joanna Cannan's *A Pony for Jean* permanently on loan from the public library) was willing to supply a detailed paragraph

in praise of the "privileged, subtle" children in Annette Forest's *The Piglet's Progress*: "uservens" books "old-fashioned in some ways" but capable of arousing affection.

Among childhood favourites, though, there was a very marked preponderance of what might now be seen as "classic" titles. Indeed, the biggest surprise in the entire poll was the enthusiasm shown for one of the most ancient books to which children have attached themselves: *The Pilgrim's Progress*. One author recalled the adventures and the kindly detailed portraits by Frederick Barnard for the Dandelion edition; Richard Adams apparently wrote an essay on it when he was nine years old; and A. J. F. Taylor still ranks it high. "When young I liked the story, when old I like the style."

Many of the other classic choices were predictable enough, the most frequently recurring being one or other of the Alice books, or of *The Wind in the Willows*. Kingsley Amis (who thought that nobody with a name like that could be any good) felt she was "forced on helpless impressionable children by adults who have forgotten what it's like to be a child." An opinion that got some support from Lord Olivier—sounds like a "pretty strong" in the past on Enid Blyton, and I am afraid that all my efforts to enthral

them with Beatrix Potter have been of no avail."

Enid Blyton, in fact, came in for less praise and less veneration in the poll than might be expected—no one recalled her with pleasure, and few people spending any time on needlessly destructive remarks. Hunter Davies's "soppy and girlish" seems to sum it all up. As he turned out, though, there was considerable reluctance on the part of several participants to name "least favourite" titles. K. M. Peyton deemed it unkind to specify anyone writing "cheaply" although she could without much trouble she added darkly and Ronald Dahl didn't want to "knock fellow writers." But then he also refused to name them and said: "I'm absolutely honest with you my favourite book is *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* by 'you-know-who'—a phrase which, oddly enough, by Jill Paton Walsh, when she chose *Charlie* as her least favourite item. Such clashes of opinion were among the more heartening revelations of the survey, partly because they showed high books evoking passionate responses.

After all, it's easy enough to write off "soppy and girlish" books as Emma Tennant did, for their "smug assumptions" and their "boring and banal" picture of daily life—who would wish to oppose such a view with any vehemence? But there was a different voltage in

the attacks and defence of "major" works.

Trevor Nunn, for instance, could write about *Waterbury* that for him, as an adult, "it's the best children's book I have ever read... a genuine lesson in lost innocence," while for Hunter Davies it was "preposterous rubbish." And Richard Adams himself figures as a proponent for Walter de la Mare's *The Three Royal Monkeys*, which, with Ballantyne's *Gorilla Hunters*, counts as worst for K. M. Wilson. "In fact," he also wrote, "I don't like it, but I like it because de la Mare and Ballantyne are certainly among the most overrated of all children's writers—both appallingly bad to the point of unreadability." The second "simply an ignorant" and the first "having no particular talent of any kind." (I must say I agree with him about unreadable *Waterbury*, but *The Three Royal Monkeys* is a different matter—a weird book, whose language and landscape have a richness beyond anything found elsewhere in children's literature).

It is presumably to be expected that Hans Christian Andersen figured high among the much disliked authors (and also high on the list of names constantly spelt wrong). He is an author who perhaps has to be read by children at a very precise moment of readiness, and who has, moreover, suffered much from incompetent

translators and from sentimentalising. But that he is not really as "wet" as Simon Raven makes out. It is also not surprising to find a bad press for Dr. Heinrich Hoffmann. Certainly the atrociously "popular" detestable Catherine Cookson retains "an undying gratitude for the woman in the house who brought me Grimm's Fairy Tales," but the forces were ranged three to one against *Struwwelpeter*.

Auberon Waugh, who was the one, didn't state what it is, a favourite, but he can have the satisfaction that no less a judge of picture books than Maurice Sendak has said that it is the best picture book in the world.

The other big surprise of the survey was the line-up against *Ransome*. As one who read *We Didn't Mean To Go To Sea* oblivious of bombs falling on streets near by, I was startled by the vehemence of his detractors: "that prissy little group of children," said Jill Cooper, "rushing around going camping and doing awful boring things like sailing," "totally unreadable," said John Braine; mildly dislike," said Simon Raven; and Michael Holroyd, after ailly Cooperish assault on "all that fiddling with ropes and jumping about on fore-decks" added, "we were not like that where I lived in Berkshire."

Although no one all answered a detailed attack meant to Ransome there was enough diversity in the list as a whole to knock the props from under any theory that children only enjoy or revere the atrociously "popular" writers. Stevenson and Kipling and Dickens (or at least *Dick Copperfield*) gained as widespread an affection as the "William" books of which Simon Raven movingly said "I'm told these books are now labelled 'fascist' by a certain kind of school-teacher and whisked off the shelves into the rubbish bins." Replaced by writers tailored in accordance with the recommendations and fads of the Equal Opportunities Commission. No wonder readers is unpopular with children these days.

I don't think he need worry too much though, for Biggles Defies the Moralists — along with William and the much derided *Stalky & Co.* But what ever happened, I wonder, to the really oddball favourites of writers? *Remember Mrs Munch*, say, or H. L. Estrange Malone's *Nipping Bear*, or *The Unlucky Family* by Mrs Henry de la Pasture, published in 1907? And how many readers can tell Dr. Desmond Morris who wrote *The One-eyed Griffin*?

Brian Alderson  
Children's Books Editor

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## How eight artists got the official seal of approval

Paris They were a worried group of craftsmen and artists in the Atelier Gourdon, near the Porte d'Orléans, on Thursday. A series of telephone calls to the casino at Pau, in south-west France had failed to find any news of the lorry carrying their exhibition of lithographs.

"Perhaps it has been hijacked," somebody said, but the joke was in bad taste. They tell an apocryphal story in the print workshops of Paris about the big lorry stopped at the Spanish border, stuffed with blank sheets of paper. Closer inspection by the Customs men showed that each sheet was not quite blank but bore the signature of a famous artist.

The paper was said to be on its way to a printers and there it was to be turned into an original lithograph signed by the artist in a limited edition as advertised in glossy magazines everywhere. The blank sheets of paper, with their signature, were worth a small fortune.

Whether or not the story is true matters less than the fact that it gained so much credence. Over the past decade limited editions of lithographs have become less and less limited in so many cases as to be a mere curiosity.

About two years ago the inevitable happened. Greed led to the publication of almost unlimited editions. There were

forgeries. There were secret printings of second editions. Sometimes a colour would be changed or the type of paper changed to make a picture technically different. The market was flooded.

The exhibition at Pau opened yesterday, the lorry having safely arrived in time. It is an exhibition which aims to turn the tide and win back public confidence in the art of lithography.

Its main purpose is a round but energetic art editor of Corbisart de Saint M. Alain Agostini.

He collected a team of eight artists together and commissioned them to do one lithograph in a limited edition of 125 each. Then he went round

to the courts and asked for the help of a *huissier*, a legal official.

The *huissier* was somewhat surprised at the task he was asked to perform but, being apparently a man of some adaptability, he set to work with a will. He was presented with the list of 1,000 lithographs, and on the back of each one he nearly stamped his official seal in the corner, then signed it.

The signature is quite neat on the lithographs near the top of the pile, but for those near the end it has become little more than an artistic squiggle of its own. Nevertheless, he finished the task, giving a legal guarantee that the lithograph was the genuine article.

At the Atelier Gourdon they still use a 150-year-old press with a foot treadle and steel capstan to run off proofs squeezed flat by the roller on to a real hunk of printer's stone. One of the craftsmen worked with Picasso, and they all have the sort of dedication to their craft that makes artists queue up to have their work printed there.

One of the Agostini group of eight is Vincent Haddeley, Yorkshireman, horse fanatic, native painter and amateur lithographer.

He is pleased that Pau has been chosen for staging this first exhibition of legally

approved lithographs because of the town's British connections. The Duke of Wellington went hunting there, and there is still a hotel built of stone, with French members who ride with the vevre art are known locally as Les Anglais.

Haddeley has drawn a special picture of the Pau hunt for the exhibition, full of horses, as are most of his paintings. But it is the success or failure of the lithographs to which he, his fellow artists, are looking anxiously. If it succeeds then the legal examination to become a *huissier* must have to include a paper on art appreciation.

Ian Murray

كلد ان الاصل



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## THE DEFENCE OF EUROPE

Nato is now in better shape than it has been for some time, as this week's meeting in Brussels showed. There are still some very sore spots, such as the dispute between Greece and Turkey, but the broad purposes of the alliance are now being pursued with a relatively high degree of harmony and rationality. Grand gestures and sweeping new doctrines have taken second place to programmes of the steady and long term. Worries about critical insufficiencies and bungled planning are receding. There has already been some progress in what General Haig, the Supreme Commander of Europe, has called the three Rs—readiness, reinforcement and rationalization. Mr Harold Brown, the American Defence Secretary, said on Wednesday that he was particularly encouraged by the response of the allies to the short-term initiatives agreed in May.

There are two main reasons for this growing confidence. First, an acceptable level of mutual comprehension between Moscow and Washington has been restored after the rough period at the beginning of the year, when the Russians were rattled by the opening gambits of the Carter Administration. Little has been achieved in the way of concrete agreements but the feeling that the two super powers might stumble into dangerous mistakes through simple lack of communication is no longer so acute. The underlying validity of détente is confirmed, even though its terms are far from fully agreed.

Secondly, members of the alliance seem to have established a broader consensus on the nature of the threat and what needs to be done to counter it. At one end of the scale it has been impossible to sustain the belief that détente would usher in a new era of rapid disarmament. Efforts must and will continue (new western proposals are on the way) but results will be slow coming, so there can be no lowering of military vigilance. At the other end of the scale, the alarmist predictions of a rapid swing of the balance of power against a crumbling and demoralized West have also proved exaggerated.

True, the Soviet build-up has continued relentlessly in all

fields, with new and better weapons of all types streaming continuously into eastern Europe. Last night's communiqué from Brussels rightly said that this casts a shadow over East-West relations. But so far the West has shown itself able to counter with sufficient improvements of its own. As Mr Brown said in Brussels, the alliance really does have to pull up its socks (but I think we are now starting to do that). He cited the fact that allied anti-tank guided missiles will have increased from 47,000 at the end of 1976 to 133,000 at the end of 1978.

There are, however, some new and difficult challenges looming up that already require even closer cooperation between Europe and the United States. At stake in the long run is whether Europe or any of its members can sustain an independent nuclear deterrent. At the moment arms control is being discussed mainly on two separate levels. The Americans and the Russians discuss limits on strategic weapons while in Vienna the allies (without France) join in attempts to limit forces in central Europe. The distinction is becoming increasingly blurred, largely because of new weapons such as the Cruise missile, which can be either tactical or strategic, but also because of forward-based systems such as land-based and sea-based bombers which can attack the Soviet Union from Europe. The Americans are now considering including forward-based systems and "grey area" weapons in guidelines for future Salt agreements. Already there is a Soviet-American protocol envisaging three years' work on Cruise missiles with a range of more than 600 kilometres would not be deployed while versions with a range of more than 2,500 kilometres would not be developed.

Mr Brown rightly insists that this does not foreclose the possibility of Cruise missiles being deployed in Europe, or even of Europeans developing their own. Nor has the United States made any commitment not to transfer Cruise missile technology to its European allies. The whole question is still open. Equally, it is not clear how far the pressures following from Soviet-American limitations on the missile. It would be politically as well as technically difficult for

Britain, for instance, to defy both super powers and try to develop its own Cruise missile which depends not only on a sophisticated guidance system but also on very accurate mapping by satellites. The problem requires careful debate.

At the moment it is not even certain that the Cruise missile would necessarily be the best means of providing Britain with a strategic nuclear deterrent when the present generation of submarine-based missiles becomes obsolete. Some experts argue that it is not as cheap as it is made out to be if all its launching and support systems are taken into account, as well as the numbers required if it is to have any chance of penetrating enemy defences. Others still regard it as a relatively cheap and flexible way of preserving just enough nuclear capability to make a potential aggressor or blackmailer hesitate before pressing the button.

What is important at the moment is that Soviet-American negotiations should not pre-empt decisions which deeply affect European interests and require European participation. This is not happening yet but it could happen in the future, particularly if Europeans are unsure what they want. They have good reason for being unsure. The strategic weapons now held by Britain and France are a legacy of decisions made in different circumstances. It is easy enough to see that in strictly military terms they are not really effective and not worth the money. It would nevertheless be a big and risky step to give them up altogether and rely wholly on the super powers, especially at a time when more countries will be acquiring nuclear weapons. The interests of Europe and the super powers will not necessarily be for ever and everywhere identical. A few old-fashioned nuclear weapons do not look impressive in computerized war games but they carry a certain psychological weight and inject an element of uncertainty into the calculations of the super powers which could in certain circumstances be salutary. Decisions about their long-term future must be taken consciously and not left until they have been overtaken by events.

## A VICTORY THAT IS WORSE THAN DEFEAT

By persuading executives of Hitachi, the Japanese electrical and electronics company, that there is no place for them in Britain the home-based television manufacturing industry has won what it clearly considers to be a singular victory. If victory means deflecting the Government from its avowed policy of seeking to attract more foreign investment to these shores, despite the long-term consequences that such a deflection may have for British industry as a whole, then the manufacturers and their trade union partners are using the word well. But many will hope that this particular "victory" will prove to be singular only in the sense that it is a once-and-for-all happening, not to be repeated by this or any other manufacturing group bent upon its own sectional interests.

There are several disturbing aspects to the affair. About a year ago the Government, through its representatives in the Department of Industry, indicated that it would not oppose Hitachi's efforts to establish manufacturing facilities in the north of England, provided certain conditions were met. Negotiations were opened, and several important assurances were wrested from the Japanese. In essence, Hitachi agreed that it would obtain at least 40 per cent of the components it required from United Kingdom suppliers;

moreover, it would seek to export some 50 per cent of its output, and at the same time it would reduce the importation of its sets from Japan as its own English-based operation got under way.

It would be wrong to say that the Government has now gone back on its word, because it has. The Japanese themselves have decided that the climate is not right for them to move into Britain. But Hitachi has clearly come to this decision because of the sustained and at times hysterical campaign waged against it by the industry's leaders. And the Government has done little publicly to abate this protectionist clamour.

Ironically, the industry's campaign has been led by its own sector working party, operating under the umbrella of the National Economic Development Council. It is to such bodies as this that the Government has been looking for statesman-like, practical advice on implementing the industrial strategy that is designed to restore the country to its former glory as a producer of goods for the world.

One can understand the anxiety of workers in the television manufacturing industry to preserve their jobs, particularly at a time when their companies are suffering from a severe recession, and overcapacity. It is natural, too, that the companies themselves should

seek to build barriers against so powerful a competitor, both technologically and economically, as Hitachi. But ultimately no British manufacturer, or indeed no manufacturer in any other part of the world, can survive against a producer who offers reliable products often at costs which are lower than those of its rivals. Its only hope is to put its own house in order as rapidly as possible.

On the day Hitachi said it would not go forward with its United Kingdom plans it announced that it had formed links with General Electric to manufacture in the United States. That, too, has its own touch of irony. The American television manufacturing industry has been going through as intensely competitive a period as British counterparts, and its leaders have been lobbying their country's politicians with equal persistence. Yet the Hitachi-General Electric plan has not been stopped. Hitachi's decision not to come to Britain may give the United Kingdom industry a chance to rationalize; if this opportunity is taken, some good may come of the affair. If it is not, the chances are that the industry's opposition will prove to have done no more than persuade that Britain does not mean business after all.

### President Sadat's mission

From Mrs D. C. Casson  
Sir, What response from the church to the Egyptian-Israeli moves towards peace does Mr Andrew Cruickshank look for? (December 5). He asks for recognition from "Christianity through its churches". Here in an industrial and now housing area members of this Anglican church have been giving thanks to God for the news. In our public worship, in house groups and privately we have prayed for the peace and spiritual well-being of the situation at the time of Moses have been discussed with lively interest. We are ordinary Christians; we see God at work in the world, and we rejoice. What more can we do? Yours faithfully,  
HELEN CASSON,  
145 Hollybush Road,  
Luton,  
Bedfordshire,  
December 5.

### Fount of honour?

From Mr Peter Grant  
Sir, I have always suspected that The Times is the true fount of all honour, and in Oxford, at least, this case seems proved. A few days ago, Philip Howard conferred on friend Mr Christopher Lush the title of so amply merits but he so far steadfastly refused to collect his Clifford Longley bestows on Professor James Barr the process of Episcopal confirmation (without

### Bermuda executives

From Lord Thirlwall  
Sir, The recent debate on the Bermuda executives recalls a 1970 case of a capital sentence in the Bahamas. After due process and in accordance with the advice of the Bahamas Committee on the Exercise of the Prerogative of Mercy, I stated that the law must take its course, but on appeal to the Crown the then Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary asked for reconsideration. The case remained under discussion between Nassau and London for many weeks during which exhaustive further examination of all the circumstances confirmed the judgment of Bahamas Ministers and myself. But the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary made it clear that he was not prepared to allow the sentence to be carried out. After several days of proceedings we eventually acquiesced on grounds

of humanity, in order that the condemned prisoner should not be kept longer in suspense.

The constitutional convention was not formally breached but in effect the Crech Jones Rules were set aside. I remain, Sir, Your obedient servant,  
THURLOW,  
House of Lords,  
December 8.

### In Regent's Park

From Lady Mallinson  
Sir, I should like to write in support of Mr Brown's letter, published on December 6, about the sculpture which has appeared in Regent's Park. Not only are there blue glass statues, but mini-Stonewall and mini-Stonewall have also appeared under groups of trees. Why must this lovely open Park—the whole point of its harmonious nature is that it is an open and almost rural place in the midst of the pleasing architecture of the Nash terraces—be cluttered up with man-made objects? If it is said that this sculpture, even if it is discordant, is there to "make us think", surely one might reply that to most people who habitually walk in Regent's Park this place, with its splendid wild fowl, trees, flowers and fields is a pleasant and uplifting refuge from oppressive thought. Yours faithfully,  
MARGARET MALLINSON,  
25 Wimpole Street, W1,  
December 6.

## Sir Harold Wilson and the BBC

From Sir Hugh Greene  
Sir, I am sorry that Sir Harold Wilson's famous memory is at last beginning to fail him.

Today The Times reports his "categorical denial" of a statement by Mr Mansel, the managing director of BBC external services, on a case of Government intervention in connection with a programme about a book by Stalin's daughter, Svetlana Alliluyeva.

The programme consisted in fact of extracts from her book, Letters to a Friend, which was due to be broadcast in the BBC Russian Service on May 25, 1967. George Brown, then Foreign Secretary, had been on a visit to Moscow since May 23. On the afternoon of May 25 I had a telephone call from the Foreign Office to say that an urgent message had been received from George Brown, asking that steps should be taken to see that the programme was dropped as otherwise Mr Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, had threatened to cancel a very important meeting due to take place the next day. I replied that the programme, which had been dropped as it had received a lot of publicity and press comment would be unavoidable.

A little later that afternoon another call reached me, this time from Number 10 Downing Street. I was told that the Prime Minister would be very grateful if the programme could be dropped "in the national interest". I finally agreed to drop the programme, and the programme was in fact broadcast on May 27.

I do not quite understand why Sir Harold Wilson was in such a hurry to issue his "categorical denial". There seems to me to be nothing discreditable to him in this incident or for that matter to me. It would be intolerably arrogant for any Director General of the BBC to regard himself in all circumstances as a better judge of national interest than the Prime Minister of the day, even though on the very rare occasions when something like this happens it is certainly his business "national interest" is really involved or whether it is a purely party matter.

When one remembers that all these exchanges were by telephone, it is going a bit far for Sir Harold Wilson to claim that a search of Number 10 files "confirms" that this incident did not occur. However that may be, there is a full account of the whole affair in the BBC archives.

Wilson's other "categorical denial" dealing with an interview about a book on President Amin as that was after my time.

Yours faithfully,  
HUGH GREENE,  
7, 10 Palace Gate, W8,  
December 8.

### Fuel disconnections

From the Secretary of the British Gas Corporation  
Sir, Mr Jeremy Mitchell of the National Consumer Council claims (Letter, December 8) that their evidence of disconnections of the code of practice on the payment of domestic electricity and gas bills will stand up to further investigation.

It is our experience that when we have investigated all allegations adequate information is often not available. It is for this reason that we have asked the National Consumer Council to provide us with the names, addresses and full details of all cases concerning gas about which they have written to the Secretary of State.

The National Gas Consumers' Council, which is the statutory body for the gas industry, has been looking after the interests of gas consumers since 1972. They have informed us that they had no single instance where disconnection was incorrectly applied out of nearly 500 cases which they have investigated.

GORDON MAY,  
Secretary, British Gas Corporation,  
59 Bryanston Street,  
Marble Arch, W1,  
December 8.

### Aid for El Salvador

From Father Maurice Keane, SJ, and others  
Dear Sir, December 10 is Human Rights Day and we would like to draw attention again to the plight of the oppressed in El Salvador. Evidence indicates that the hoped-for improvements after the election of a few months ago have not taken place. As before, the approach is now a more subtle one but no less pernicious. Mass arrests continue as also detention without trial, torture and the killing of those who courageously protest the injustices of their society. Church groups (including the country's 47 Jesuits) threatened with extermination in the middle of the summer; peasants, trade unionists, students have all become victims of the oppression.

Such reports are common reading today and it is easy to turn a deaf ear to yet one more example. But it is especially painful and outrageous to learn at the same time that the Government of Great Britain is presently proposing to sell £850,000 of military equipment, including second-hand armoured vehicles, to the Salvadorean Government.

The manufacture and sale of arms remains always a highly questionable enterprise. In the present case it cannot but be immoral. Since March of this year US military aid to El Salvador has been suspended on grounds of human rights. It would seem urgent that Britain should support this initiative and cancel the sale immediately.

Yours sincerely,  
MAURICE KEANE, SJ,  
BRIAN CONWAY, SJ,  
ROBERT MURPHY, SJ,  
JOSEPH LAISHLEY, SJ,  
20 Phoenix Road, NW1,  
December 8.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Broadcast attack on National Front

From Mr Humphry Berkeley

Sir, I disagree with your opinion which was expressed in leading article today (December 9), that the Labour Party was wrong to make a head-on attack on the National Front in its latest party political broadcast.

I spent almost every evening during the GLC elections canvassing for the Labour candidate for North Haringey, Stoke Newington, in the spring of this year. The National Front fought that election on a programme of deadly simplicity. It was a combination of socialist measures and racial hatred.

Such a programme brought Hitler to power in Germany in 1933. The National Front propaganda in the GLC elections was aimed at the working class and the target was hit with unerring accuracy. It came across over 40 people during my canvass who told me that they intended to vote for the National Front candidate. All but four of them had voted Labour in October, 1974; none had voted Conservative previously. The Labour, Liberal and Communist candidates denounced the propaganda of the National Front (which stated that there were six million coloured people in Britain, instead of the true figure of two million); the Conservative candidate declined to do so.

The National Front programme for London involved the expulsion of all coloured people from the country (even those who were born here), and the removal of coloured people from council house waiting lists and from GLC schools. Special segregated schools were to be built for the education of coloured children in the presumably transitory period between now and their "repatriation".

It is necessary for all of us to recognize that the only class is the human race, and to proclaim our belief now, because tomorrow will be too late. Like you, I deplore the fact that people were interviewed without knowing that they were to appear in a party political broadcast. This is quite inexcusable in any circumstances, and should be as vigorously condemned as the recent slipping of the speech of a public figure who was under the impression that he was speaking at a private dinner.

I have for some time felt that "party political broadcasts" should be abolished. What do you think, however, you are quite right in saying that the National Front should be able, through a chosen spokesman

and by means of a television interview, to reply to allegations which they believe to be unfair.

Yours faithfully,  
HUMPHRY BERKLEY,  
Three Pages Yard,  
Chiswick, W4,  
December 9.

From Mr S. N. Abbasi

Sir, The party political broadcast on behalf of the Labour Party was remarkable not in its use of propaganda but in the implicit acceptance of the National Front as a major political force.

Politics allows the use of all forms of propaganda only in England do we retain the sense of "fair play". However, the gross violation of this tradition by the National Front, in its use of lucid, emotive propaganda was not, until the Labour Party programme checked with an assertive definition.

By paying a mere lip-service to the National Front, the established parties have been guilty of allowing the Front to grow: they have no one to blame but themselves for the increasing membership and political power exerted by the Front. At long last, a major political party has fought back at the National Front using the simple technique of highlighting the Front's tactics, not in a rhetorical, ended fashion but in a simplistic and therefore direct fashion.

The National Front has always operated on a political level below that of the established parties: at last one of these established parties has decided to counter the Front at the Front level of politics and that is where the National Front will be defeated.

Yours faithfully,  
SAULAT ABBASI,  
31 Cornam Gardens,  
Edgware,  
Middlesex,  
December 7.

From Mr Peter Wood

Sir, I am at a loss to understand the furor at the recent Labour Party political broadcast.

I am not a supporter of the Labour Party, but I am a Jew. And from this standpoint I would like to express my opinion that what the broadcast said with relation to the National Front should have been said by responsible politicians in this country several years ago.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER WOOD,  
7 Bolton Road,  
St Johns Wood, NW8,  
December 9.

### Safeguarding the otter

From Sir Christopher Lever

Sir, It is not, I believe, generally realized just how endangered the otter is becoming in Britain. Legislation to protect it locally may not be enough to save it from extinction; it must have national protection.

It is also, I think, not fully appreciated how shy and timid the animal is; if it is to breed successfully it requires both an absence of competing species and, above all, freedom from disturbance. As it has no natural predators in Britain, this means that it is vulnerable to man, whether as angler, yachtsman, camper, hiker or huntsman.

There is believed to be some connexion between the absence of otters and the presence of the now widely distributed alien mink in some parts of the country through competition for food. This competition may not be excessive, as the

otter eats mainly fish whereas the diet of the mink is much more broadly based, but it none the less exists. In addition, evidence from Sweden suggests that otters will not breed where mink are found. Although it is true that comparatively few otters have been killed by other hounds in recent years, some pregnant bitch otters are believed to abort after being hunted. During the last decade other hounds have killed considerable numbers of mink, which cause havoc among our native wildlife and domestic poultry. They would, I suggest, do better in future to confine their attention to this voracious alien carnivore rather than harass the gravely endangered native otter.

Yours faithfully,  
CHRISTOPHER LEVER,  
Frye Mead House,  
Windsor Forest,  
Berkshire,  
December 6.

### Criticizing South Africa

From Mr Peter Hardy, MP for Rother Valley (Labour)

Sir, You published an advertisement from the Club of Ten recently which suggested that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office employed double standards in its attitude to South Africa. The advertisement suggested that while South Africa had been criticized for its treatment of sections of the press, no such criticism had been levelled at Pakistan for the arrest of four editors.

In fact, while relations between the press and the present Administration in Pakistan may be poor, the press there may currently enjoy more freedom than it has for some years and it is apparently more willing to defend itself.

There are other differences between the two Governments' treatment of the press. Charges were preferred against the Pakistani editors immediately. They were held for periods of up to 14 days before release. But they have been released and, contrary to the suggestion in the advertisement, there is no evidence that they were ill treated.

### Bus services

From the Chief Executive of the National Bus Company

Sir, It is not clear from your report yesterday (December 7), on Sir Christopher Soames' comments whether he was attacking the Traffic Commissioners or the National Bus Company. Since the former office is an independent quasi-judicial capacity, I can only assume they were not his target. If they were, he appears to have been accusing them of partiality in exercising their discretion under the statutes.

As for NBC, our subsidiaries own less than 19,000 out of some 77,000 public service vehicles in Great Britain. If present controls over bus services, by road service licence, and other means in London, were removed, NBC subsidiaries would be free to compete anywhere without constraint. This would include the areas served by the 20,000 or more buses owned by London Transport and the six Passenger Transport Authorities. Executives, controlled by the Greater London and Metropolitan County Councils and some 50 bus undertakings controlled by District Councils in England and Wales. NBC might well be joined in this free for all by some of the independent operators of about 28,000 buses and coaches.

Some may believe that the consequence would be better public transport systems in town and country. NBC emphatically does not. We do not think that county and district councils who take their

responsibilities seriously in this field believe it either.

Perhaps Sir Christopher wants different rules in different places. In our view he cannot have it both ways.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBERT BROOK, Chief Executive,  
National Bus Company,  
25 New Street Square, EC4,  
December 7.

### Building conservation

From the Chairman, Building Conservation Association

Sir, If the Government is looking at ways in which North Sea oil revenue may be invested for the nation, a good case could be made for earmarking some of the funds for the rehabilitation of our building and housing stock. This would enable us to pass on to the next generation cities, towns and hamlets which maintain something of our heritage with improved living standards for enjoyment today.

Rehabilitation is, moreover, labour intensive and gives opportunities both for craft skills and factory employment. There could surely be no better use socially or economically for our North Sea windfall.

Yours faithfully,  
PAUL REILLY,  
Chairman, Building Conservation Association,  
26 Store Street, WC1,  
December 8.

## The law for those living together

From Mr D. C. Bradley

Sir, The points which Mr David Green raises in his letter (December 5) overstate the importance of the interpretation of the Domestic Violence and Matrimonial Proceedings Act 1976 in Davis v Johnson and disregard the context in which the majority in that case saw the scheme of protection afforded by the Act operating.

The case does not purport to confer a general adjudicative jurisdiction on the breakdown of cohabitation through violence similar to that which is available to spouses on the grant of a divorce decree, nor does the majority foresee the long term disruption of property rights as an inevitable result of their decision.

What was envisaged was a discretion exercisable by county court judges with their substantial experience in family matters, wide enough to take account of the circumstances of individual cases. Its primary purpose was seen as conferring only short term protection from homelessness while permanent accommodation was found. They also considered that the concept of property rights, and hence the notion of their disruption, was material in the many cases which would involve non-assignable council tenancies which were not protected by the Rent Acts and which had no commercial value.

In the light of this approach much of the reaction to Davis v Johnson has been exaggerated. The alternative to denying an unmarried cohabitee and her children temporary but much needed protection from homelessness irrespective of the duration, the circumstances and motives for cohabitation, is not a "mistress's charter" and this is not what the case produces. Many of the difficulties to which Mr Green refers either will not arise or, if they do, will be dealt with on a further application by the injured property owner before the county court judge.

The real achievement of the case lies not in the extent of the rights which have been conferred but in the willingness to innovate and interpret a statutory provision like this in its working but ambiguous in its context to provide relief to a particularly vulnerable section of the community; viz, those at risk from domestic violence and moreover the poorest among them. Yours faithfully,  
D. C. BRADLEY,  
London School of Economics and Political Science,  
Houghton Street, WC2,  
December 6.

### Changed rules of Equity

From Mr Nigel Davenport

Sir, The article by Lord Oliver in your issue of December 6 under the heading "Union type casting" was most timely. He writes, he says, in panic about the undermining of personal and artistic freedoms within Equity, the actors' union. The principles for which Equity was formed, it was originally founded only to protect actors' well being along with their personal and artistic freedoms.

Actors, artists with many diverse skills and opinions, are peculiarly difficult to organise into a union structure, and the moderate views of the majority make them disinclined to participate in union affairs. But the very nature of the industry places their personal liberties at stake—as are the liberties of many million moderate members of trade unions throughout this country.

Happily, Lord Oliver's article will send blood pumping through sluggish veins.

Yours etc,  
NIGEL DAVENPORT,  
47 Fitzmaurice Gardens, W8,  
December 2.

### Second person singular

From Dr Brian Porter

Sir, The increasing tendency in the press to address the Almighty as "You" is much to be deplored. For if persisted in it will lead to the total disappearance from living speech of the "thou" and "thee" forms and a consequent impoverishment of the language. Suppose our poets had had to make do with the ugly "you". "Drink to me only with your eyes". If the latter pronouns are so unfamiliar the answer, surely, is not to abandon them but to revive them. We restore our cathedrals, our paintings, and now our historic ships. Should we not do the same for our language? Our English tongue?

The second person singular might be revived as the language of endearment, as in French and who could more effectively do this than the writers of pop songs?

Yours faithfully,  
BRIAN PORTER,  
Department of International Politics,  
University College of Wales,  
Aberystwyth,  
Dfined,  
December 6.

### The Lord's Prayer

From Lady Stansgate

Sir, Baron von Hugel once said of the New Testament in its original Greek: "It's not even literature—but it's the Bread of Life." In other words, the beauty and form has never obscured the content of the message.

Whenever I am jarred by modernized versions of the Lord's Prayer I remember this salutary fact and with it, the down-to-earth reaction of a young grand-daughter to whom I was teaching the prayer in its traditional form.

After listening with interest she paused for a moment and then made the spontaneous request: "Now say it in English!" Yours faithfully,  
MARGARET STANSGATE,  
10 North Court,  
Great Peter Street,  
Westminster, SW1,  
December 5.







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## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

## Good outturn seen after Lennons' 8pc interim dip

By Tony May

The supermarket price war has taken its toll at Lennons Group and pre-tax profits for the six months to October 1 are down 8 per cent to £741,000 on sales of £20.9m, the chairman, Mr Denis Lennon, the chairman, has no doubt that the group will have another successful year, so the board is paying an interim dividend of 0.63p against 0.58p gross.

He says that naturally the interim figures are not as good as he would like but he points out that additional interest has been paid, amounting to £94,000, on the forward buying of wine and spirits for Christmas. These charges will be more than offset by the resulting boost to margins in the second half.

At the annual meeting in August Mr Lennon said that the second half would provide the group's main growth, as the latter office departments would make their first contribution to Christmas profits. He admits that food retailing has

been through a difficult patch with margins and volume suffering from increased competition, but he feels that this is only a temporary phase, and that trade will settle down to a more realistic level.

Over the first half, the group has pressed on with its policy of purchasing the freeholds of some of its leased properties, and has acquired the freeholds of one supermarket and two offices. In addition, it has bought the freeholds of four properties which have been opened as off-licenses. The board has also acquired the lease of a supermarket in Carlisle which is now being fitted out, and is actively looking at a number of propositions which could be developed as additional food outlets.

The group started the year with an "appreciable" improvement in liquidity, as its stock levels had been profitably reduced. However, like the trade in general, higher rates, national insurance contributions and electricity costs were being faced.

## Upturn at Cattle's Hldg despite spending dip

Despite poor conditions for consumer spending, check and credit trading group, Cattle's (Holdings) has reported a 17 per cent increase in turnover for the half year to September 30.

On turnover up from £13.4m to £15.6m the group made a pre-tax profit of £508,000 against a previous £496,000. These results confirm the new trends established over the past 18 months, the chairman Mr Roy Wadby points out.

The increased cost of borrowing, coming at the same time as the pre-Christmas spending spree—historically the period of peak demand for the group—will increase the costs of borrowings. However, these costs are unlikely to match last year

when interest rates were much higher.

Since the end of September, the group has been provided in the Grimsby branch operation of North British Supply for £250,000 and this has been the only significant acquisition so far this year, according to the chairman.

Early this year President Financial Group made an offer for Cattle, which runs the "Shopcheck" personal credit system.

Taxation on the half year period has been provided in full but the chairman reports that the group is considering applying the new guidelines on deferred tax.

## Bardon Hill well on way to target

Bardon Hill, the Leicester-shire-based quarrying plant hire and civil engineering group, has reported a 10 per cent increase in turnover for the six months to September 30.

Last year the group achieved an overall profit of £977,000 for the 12 months to March 31, 1977. The current period takes in Charles Gregory acquired last June.

Mr J. G. Tom, chairman, says that figures for the six months enable him to confirm the forecast made when the group joined Mr J. H. Nightingale's over-the-counter market.

## McLeod up to 25p for Malayalam

McLeod Russell has raised its bid for Malayalam Plantations (Holdings) from 23p to 25p, a share, valuing the company at £6.9m. The bid was raised after McLeod increased its holding in the company from 29.99 per cent to 32.78 per cent by buying extra shares at 25p.

Malayalam, which rejected the first offer as "inadequate", has now made an announcement in the revised terms as Harrison & Crofield, which along with associates controls 23.64 per cent of the equity.

McLeod said maintains that the bid has little chance of success unless the Malayalam board recommends it because the remaining shareholders are mainly individuals rather than institutions.

## Bank Base Rates

Bank	Rate
ABN Bank	7 1/2%
Barclays Bank	7 1/2%
Consolidated Crdts	7 1/2%
First London Secs	7 1/2%
C. Hoare & Co	7 1/2%
Lloyds Bank	7 1/2%
London Mercantile	7 1/2%
Midland Bank	6 1/2%
Nat Westminster	7 1/2%
Roseminster Accs	7 1/2%
Shenley Trust	9 1/2%
TSB	7 1/2%
Williams and Glyn's	7 1/2%

## Jump of 82pc at Giltspur

Over the first six months to September 30, Giltspur has posted its pre-tax profits up 82 per cent to £10.5m and the improved profit trend will be maintained given a stable business climate. The interim advance was achieved on turnover up 10 per cent to £34.2m. Shareholders are to receive an interim dividend of 1.51p against 1.33p. With its main problem areas resolved, the group expected to do well this year.

## M. J. H. Nightingale &amp; Co. Limited

1976/77	1977/78	Company	Last Price	Chg	Div	P/E
44	27	Airsprung Ord	42	-	4.2	10.1
150	100	Airsprung 18 1/2% CULS	150	-	18.4	12.3
39	25	Armstrong & Rhodes	36	-	3.3	9.2
135	105	Bardon Hill	143	+1	12.0	8.3
102	48	Deborah Ord	107	-	5.0	8.1
216	104	Deborah 17 1/2% CULS	216	-	17.5	8.1
147	120	Frederick Parker	146	-	11.5	7.9
56	36	Jackson Group	52	-	5.0	9.6
114	55	James Burroughs	108	-	6.0	9.6
340	183	Robert Jenkins	320	-	27.0	8.4
24	8	Twinkl Ord	72	-	12.0	16.6
69	51	Unilock Holdings	67	+1	7.0	10.1
87	65	Walzer Alexander	89	-	6.4	7.4

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THE M&G GROUP

## J. Woodhead soars but caution on final stage

By Ray Maughan

Jonas Woodhead & Sons, the Leeds-based vehicle suspension specialist, came off 3p yesterday to 230p, after 224p. For the first time in over a year a run of bright optimism and results to match have been replaced by a note of boardroom caution.

In the six months to end-September, pre-tax profits soared almost 64 per cent to £2.32m on the back of a 30 per cent sales increase to £25m. The board, headed by Mr E. S. Simpson, reports that there were good levels of customers' schedules and a reasonable measure of demand in other group areas throughout the half-year.

But the outturn for the current six months is proving difficult to predict. Woodhead seems reasonably certain that annual profits will exceed the previous level of £4.59m yet the directors are cautious of the uncertainties surrounding the Government's pay policy and hope that "the general climate will not deteriorate".

"Any significant untoward change could sharply affect the performance of companies in our sector", they add a warning.

Recent market estimates of about £7m pre-tax for the year will be downgraded at the first sign of motor industry industrial action or any reversal of the Government's inflation targets but, for the present, Woodhead looks eminently capable of earning a share of 35p where the maximum p/e would be 6.5.

Shareholders, who include Prudential Assurance and North British Supply, with an aggregate 15 per cent stake, get a gross interim dividend of 3.75p a share, a further payment of 1.07p for the previous year in respect of a retrospective fall in ACT, while a one-for-one scrip is proposed.

## Stonehill slips but orders now brighter

By Alison Mitchell

Furniture maker Stonehill Holdings has been unable to escape the effects of a downturn in consumer spending and, in line with other groups in the sector, turns in reduced interim results.

In the 32 weeks to November 13, turnover slipped from a previous £7.5m to £6.7m, leaving pre-tax profits down £289,000 to £407,000.

Volume remained unchanged in the period, according to Mr Philip Stonehill, chairman, but the shortfall in the value of sales came from a switch of policy into cheaper lines of furniture. The group has also moved into other segments of the market and is doing around £400,000 worth of business a week in the leisure sector. Although the chairman would not reveal the exact nature of the business, he expects that in the next few years this new venture will

turn in around £2m to £3m annually.

Mr Stonehill is also more confident trading for the second half. Workers, who were put on short-time in the May and June recession, are now doing overtime to keep pace with orders and this level of work is likely to last until next spring.

If trading continues at these levels Stonehill could push profits up to the £1m level at the year end. Bank balances, currently standing at around £1.3m will chip in with a handy interest bonus.

Growth is likely to come both internally and externally for the group. With such a large cash balance, Stonehill could well be looking around for some other group with similar interests, to take under its umbrella. It also intends expanding into the upholstery and non-domestic furniture markets next year.

## Arlington 77pc ahead at half-time

By Michael Clark

A 77 per cent pre-tax profit leap to £671,000 for the 26 weeks to September 28 at Arlington Motor Holdings, shares, climbing 7p to 117p yesterday.

Turnover of this Middlesex-based commercial and private motor dealer increased from £14.7m to £20.5m and earnings a share from 5.3p to 9.4p. The directors intend to increase the interim dividend from 2.12p to 3.7p to reduce disparity.

The improvement comes from a general increase in sales and profits throughout the group which was achieved in a period of sluggish truck sales and restricted motor car supplies. While demand for commercial vehicles is not seasonal, sales of cars and coaches are in a seasonal lull. The first half of the year more than the second.

## Now Falcon Nickel wields axe

Falconbridge Nickel Mines plans big cuts in production, employment and capital spending next year at its nickel operations near Sudbury, Ontario, 280 miles north of Toronto.

The moves were seen by market analysts as a further indication of the worsening plight of the world's nickel industry due to weak demand and massive stocks.

Falconbridge's vice president, Mr J. Finlay, said that cutsback previously proposed and those now planned will mean that the group's Canadian nickel operations will be running in the area of 50 per cent of their about 100 million pound annual capacity in 1978, down from about 70 per cent currently. That will result in five of its seven Sudbury mines being closed by year end. Operations suspended, he said. Development work on an eighth mine has been deferred.

## GO goes for 20 pc dividend growth

Paris—Generale Occidentale expects an average 20 per cent annual rise in dividend, Sir James Goldsmith, chairman and chief shareholder, declares.

The group paid an unchanged dividend of 8.25 francs including 2.75 francs rebate for the year ended June 30.

The chairman said that the current year should be even better, although difficulties are expected in Sweden, Spain, and the United States. Currency swings will also hurt profits.

The five-year plan which began in 1976/77 involves investment of slightly over two billion francs, the chairman added.

The group plans to give up soon certain holdings, notably its 50 per cent stake in Sanders, in 47 per cent in Argyle Securities and 31.2 per cent in Southland McColl, he said.

The 100 per cent United States subsidiary Grand Union will also have off its non-food investments.

The divestment of these holdings is part of the group policy of concentrating on food. Acquisitions from now on are not strictly related to food, but any made will be in activities GO knows and in countries it understands; and it must generate real, not phantom, profits.

United Breweries Copenhagen—The United Breweries (Carlsberg and Tuborg) group of Denmark report a net profit of 179m kroner from its international activities in 1976/77, an increase of 19m on the year before.

The annual report said that the turnover including subsidiaries or licensees in more than 20 countries, rose from 5,066m to 5,153m kroner in the year to September 30.

Beer sales abroad rose by 13 per cent as a whole, with a 33 per cent rise alone for sales of beer produced by foreign licensees or breweries wholly or partially owned by the United Breweries. Exports and sales of beer produced abroad now account for nearly 60 per cent of sales.

The Danish parent had an 89.7m kroner net profit after taxes against 87.9m—AP-Dow Jones.

Briefly

Carless in for building specialist

Carless, Capel & Leonard intends to bid 25p a share for the whole of the capital of S. A. Richardson, Winchester-based building preservation specialist group.

The board of Richardson have consulted Hill Samuel and are considering the intended offer.

Earlier this week Carless reported a fall in pre-tax profits from £1.2m to £1.1m for the six months to September 30. The result was that the shares fell 9p over the week to end up at 35p. To add more gloom Mr John Leonard, deputy chairman, said that profits for the full year were not expected to reach the £2m figure for last year.

Spot Position of Sterling

Market rates for sterling in the London market were as follows:

Month	Rate
1 month	1.48 1/2
3 months	1.48 1/2
6 months	1.48 1/2
12 months	1.48 1/2

Forward Levels

Month	Rate
1 month	1.48 1/2
3 months	1.48 1/2
6 months	1.48 1/2
12 months	1.48 1/2

Tenneco purchase

Tenneco, has bought FMC Corporation's 50 per cent interest in Petro-Tex Chemical Corporation of Houston, Texas. The purchase was announced by Petro-Tex, which is a subsidiary of the Houston Ship Channel, a major producer of butadiene and olefin chemicals. Tenneco through a subsidiary has owned the Petro-Tex since 1955. The purchase was announced by Petro-Tex, which is a subsidiary of the Houston Ship Channel, a major producer of butadiene and olefin chemicals. Tenneco through a subsidiary has owned the Petro-Tex since 1955.

RCF plans to raise £633,000 in 1-for-3 rights

By Ashley Druker

Hand tool makers and distributors RCF Holdings, whose pre-tax profits for 1976-77 recovered from £492,000 to £557,000, plans a one-for-three rights issue at 32p to raise about £633,000.

The board states that capital spending for the current year is budgeted at £400,000. Additionally, it plans to spend some £300,000 in the next two years on further modernizing and increasing the capacity and efficiency of its existing manufacturing plant and distribution facilities in the United Kingdom.

Apart from providing part of the finance for this programme, the board has negotiated the extension of the average life of secured bank loans and an increase in borrowing facilities. Both the extension and increase, it is stated, are conditional on the rights issue.

Meanwhile turnover for the first quarter of the present year shows an increase of some 17 per cent over the same period. This takes in a volume increase in both the manufacturing and distribution divisions.

All going well, the board will recommend that the current dividend level be maintained on the enlarged equity.

Int Combustion wins NEI share option

By Our Financial Staff

The outcome of the Northern Engineering bid for International Combustion (Holdings) shows that it can pay to ask for more even when control has slipped away, and indeed when the successful predator has already adopted a forbidding attitude.

Northern now offers 7 of its own ordinary shares and £3.53 cash, or 11.75 new Northern shares for every ten International Combustion. In other words, Northern is still offering its original share and cash terms (worth 96p) but with a straight share alternative.

This alternative brings the value imputed to every International share up to around 102p. The original shares and cash offer made in October had a value of around 100p. So NEI is now prepared

to pay around £9.3m for the whole ICH business.

The modest variation in the original terms is a credit to both the ICH board, save obviously the two representatives of the American group, Combustion Engineering whose key stake went to Northern Engineering, early on, and its adviser Robert Fleming.

They now strongly advise all shareholders to accept the latest terms, and the offer is unconditional save for the admission to the Official List of the NEI shares to be issued.

Equally, the Northern offer has a smooth passage secured at the time of the offer. The fact remains, as the defence documents against NEI pointed out, that ICH had, with associates, on September 30, £3.8m of cash, and should have this year pre-tax profits of at least £2.5m.

Benfield auditors' query

The accounts of builders and contractors Benfield & Loxley have been qualified. The auditors are unable to say whether a going concern basis of accounting is appropriate. The group's bankers would be prepared to provide additional finance if and when the sale by the receiver of Merrow Associates as a going concern goes ahead.

On the evidence available the auditors conclude that the group has adequate financial resources

only if the money resulting from the sale is "made available without significant delay". Also, they cannot form an opinion on the accuracy of the division in the accounts between operating losses of £124,000 and extraordinary losses of £18,000. Meanwhile the chairman says that the year to February 28 will produce a profit of about £9,000, and prospects for the early part of the next year are encouraging.

Commodities

Cash wheat has gained 47 1/2p to 110 1/2p, and cash barley 11 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash oats have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash soyabean meal has gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash soyabean oil has gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash cottonseed oil has gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash rapeseed oil has gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash sunflower oil has gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash linseed oil has gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash tallow has gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash lard has gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash butter has gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash cheese has gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash milk has gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash eggs have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash poultry has gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash pigmeat has gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash beef has gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash lamb has gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash mutton has gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash venison has gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash game has gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash fish has gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash shellfish has gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash fruit and vegetables have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash flowers and plants have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash livestock have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash machinery and equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash vehicles have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash property have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash art and antiques have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash books and documents have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash stamps and coins have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash jewellery have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash watches have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash clocks have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash toys and games have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash sports equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash musical instruments have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash cameras and film have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash binoculars and telescopes have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash microscopes have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash calculators and computers have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash office equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash kitchen appliances have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash household appliances have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash garden equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash power tools have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash building materials have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash construction equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash agricultural equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash industrial equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash scientific equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash medical equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash dental equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash veterinary equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash aviation equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash marine equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash railway equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash road transport equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash air transport equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash sea transport equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash space equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash telecommunications equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash security equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash defence equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash law enforcement equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash fire fighting equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash rescue equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash emergency equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash disaster relief equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash humanitarian equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash religious equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash cultural equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash educational equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash recreational equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash sporting equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash leisure equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash entertainment equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash media equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash advertising equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash public relations equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash business development equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash sales and marketing equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash customer service equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash human resources equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash training equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash recruitment equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash retention equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash motivation equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash leadership equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash management equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash decision making equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash problem solving equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash conflict resolution equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash negotiation equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash mediation equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash arbitration equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash dispute resolution equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash legal equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash judicial equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash executive equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash senior management equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash middle management equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash junior management equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash non-management equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash employee equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash worker equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash staff equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash personnel equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash human capital equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash intellectual property equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash trade secrets equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash patents equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash trademarks equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash copyrights equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash design rights equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash database rights equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash semiconductor rights equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash software rights equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash technology rights equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash innovation rights equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash research and development equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash scientific research equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash medical research equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash agricultural research equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash industrial research equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash commercial research equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash consumer research equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash market research equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash opinion research equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash social research equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash behavioral research equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash psychological research equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash physiological research equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash environmental research equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash historical research equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash archaeological research equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash anthropological research equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash linguistic research equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash literary research equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash artistic research equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash musical research equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash theatrical research equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash cinematic research equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash television research equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash radio research equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash journalism research equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash publishing research equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash media research equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash advertising research equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash public relations research equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash business development research equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. Cash sales and marketing research equipment have gained 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p. 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## Stock Exchange Prices

## Firm end to the account

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Begin, Monday. Dealings End, Dec 30. Settlement Day, Jan 3.

Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

BRITISH FUNDS				COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN				LOCAL AUTHORITIES				FOREIGN STOCKS				DOLLAR STOCKS				BANKS AND DISCOUNTS				BREWERS AND DISTILLERS															
Stock	Price	Change	%	Stock	Price	Change	%	Stock	Price	Change	%	Stock	Price	Change	%	Stock	Price	Change	%	Stock	Price	Change	%	Stock	Price	Change	%	Stock	Price	Change	%								
British Airways	10.50	0.00	0.0	Commonwealth	10.50	0.00	0.0	Local Authorities	10.50	0.00	0.0	Foreign Stocks	10.50	0.00	0.0	Dollar Stocks	10.50	0.00	0.0	Banks and Discounts	10.50	0.00	0.0	Brewers and Distillers	10.50	0.00	0.0	British Airways	10.50	0.00	0.0	Commonwealth	10.50	0.00	0.0				
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British Airways	10.50	0.00	0.0	Commonwealth	10.50	0.00	0.0	Local Authorities	10.50	0.00	0.0	Foreign Stocks	10.50	0.00	0.0	Dollar Stocks	10.50	0.00	0.0	Banks and Discounts	10.50	0.00	0.0	Brewers and Distillers	10.50	0.00	0.0	British Airways	10.50	0.00	0.0	Commonwealth	10.50	0.00	0.0	Local Authorities	10.50	0.00	0.0
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## Legal implications of family arrangements

[illegible]

## Queen's Bench Division

# Motorway protesters fail to reopen inquiry

**Bushell v. Secretary of State for the Environment**  
The Hon. Mr. Justice Goff QC, sitting as Deputy Queen's Bench judge.

Lordship refused an application to quash a decision of the Secretary of State for the Environment refusing to reopen an inquiry into the proposed reconstruction of motorways to be part of the M40 and M42 on the outskirts of Birmingham. The applicants were John Bushell, of Leigh End Farm, Alvechurch, and Mr James Brunt, of Birchchurch, Walsley, Birmingham.

Because of his Lordship's decision work on the proposed roads can now proceed and the motorway will be completed.

Lord Gifford for the applicants; Mr Harry Woolf for the minister.

**Recommendation.** It was contended the scheme were needed and the roads should be constructed.

It was contended for the applicants that the minister's decision should be quashed on the ground that the inspector was wrong in taking evidence from witnesses without examination of the department's witnesses on the Red Book.

The strict rules of evidence did not apply to the inquiry. It was an inspector's inquiry and hearsay evidence was admissible provided the minister was given the opportunity to comment on it and contradict it. Thus the Red Book was admissible at the inquiry and the minister gave the opportunity to the authors of it, and as they were the only persons competent to answer questions on it, it followed that the evidence was admissible.

Mr. LUKINS said the construction of motorways to be part of the M43 and M40 were made by the minister. The applicants were not aware of the fact that the committee, which pursued its objections by lawful means and not by disrupting public inquiries. There were 170 objections to the draft scheme. The inspector, after a public inquiry, recommended that the schemes be made.

At the inquiry Mr Read, for the design and publication of the *Traffic Prediction for Rural Roads* (the Red Book) had been used as the standard basic reference for study for the roads. The minister, in deciding whether to permit growth. Evidence was given showing the likely flows of traffic in the study areas and the conclusion was that the traffic on the existing network would be far in excess of the design capacity. The objectors wished to cross-examine the evidence and to present evidence for the department to test whether the predictions in the Red Book were scientifically accurate and reliable, for it was not possible to make any forecasts for the roads considered at the inquiry. The inspector disallowed cross-examination directed not at the evidence but at the minister.

The committee requested that the inquiry be reopened because of the disallow cross-examination on it of a person who had nothing to do with its preparation. If the rules of evidence were applied, the evidence at a public inquiry had to be proved and made subject to cross-examination, not only would inquiries be even longer but the public inquiry system would be likely to collapse. Accordingly the first ground of the application failed.

The second ground was that the minister, after the inquiry, had taken into account undisclosed information and evidence. After allowing cross-examination, the minister concluded that a minister, in deciding whether or not to make a scheme initiated by him, acted as an administrator and not as a politician. It was a duty to hear and consider objections, but there was no liability, although during the hearing of those objections the rules of natural justice applied.

Having considered the objections a minister was then entitled to have regard to any information or evidence which came to him from his own department or other government sources. It was inevitable that traffic forecasts would change from time to time. The closure of the inquiry had been reopened: it was not improbable that before the minister

department relating to the need for this motorway, and because of the considerable alteration in external circumstances". They drew attention to an announcement by the department of higher traffic loadings for motorways, which would change, and so if the applicants were right, that would require the minister to reopen the inquiry again. Thus, unless the minister, without reference to objectors, was entitled to take into account information coming to him, on a source heard of so do

with the traffic authorities, and that the traffic authority it had put forward at the inquiry.

The minister decided not to record the conviction, but his decision was said that he had taken into account the general changes relating to design flow standards and traffic directions since the inquiry and he was satisfied that they did not affect the evidence on which the inspector made his

There must come a point at which the object of the legislation ended and the freedom of the minister to implement his policy began.

The application should be dismissed.

Solicitors: Clifton Davis & Co. Treasury Solicitor.

## Contemnor is no outlaw

Fyke v National Westminster Bank Ltd

Sir Robert Megarry, the Vice-Chancellor, said that a plaintiff in contempt of court might, in the absence of any other evidence, be treated as being in contempt at a hearing by the court so long as he remained in contempt, but that was very different from saying that a contemnor was an outlaw, or, if he had taken proceedings, that they would be struck out. *Chuck v Cremer* (No. 1), a decision of the House of Lords, it plain that, although a contemnor could not, with some exceptions, be treated as an outlaw, it was not to move a motion under his contempt, he was not treated there was nothing to prevent him giving a notice of motion. A contemnor's decision of that kind was quite inconsistent with the concept that the action would be struck out, and so destroyed rather than being suspended.

It was important, of course, that those guilty of contempt should be able to escape punishment, but they were not to be obeyed and disobedience discouraged. But there were other reasons why a contemnor was not to be treated as an outlaw. It was neither the law, nor ought it to be, that a person in contempt was an outlaw, unable to sue, or to be sued, or to give evidence, until he had purged his contempt.

proceedings that he brought struck out.

It was difficult to see how contempt was relevant either to the clean hands maxim or to the requirement that a litigant must be fit to sue. It was not relevant, justifying the striking out of the action. In the present case as there was a claim for damages as an action, it was not relevant to the defence. His Lordship did not think that there was any maxim that he who came to the common law courts was to be treated as an outlaw, and he said that *Chuck v Cremer* said His Lordship did not think there was any maxim that he who sought the common law must do so equitably. His Lordship was not concerned more by National Westminster Bank Ltd under Order 18, rule 3(1)(c), which was based on the Rules of the Supreme Court, struck out pleading on the ground that it is scandalous, frivolous or vexatious) satisfied him that the action against them by Mr Anthony John Fyke. Mr Fyke was seeking specific performance of a contract with National Westminster Bank, for £10,000 to be paid, or alternatively, for damages for breach of contract. The contract alleged was an oral contract made in 1972 between the owner of the house, Mr Fyke's deceased father, and the bank. The bank was said as executors of Fyke

## Church news

**Clerical News**

**Appointments**

**Dioecese of Birmingham**

The Rev. R. H. M. M. Vicar of St. Andrew's, Birmingham, to be assistant to the Rev. W. J. O'Donnell, Vicar of St. Andrew's, Birmingham.

The Rev. W. J. O'Donnell, Vicar of St. Andrew's, Birmingham, to be assistant to the Rev. R. H. M. M. Vicar of St. Andrew's, Birmingham.

The Rev. R. H. M. M. Vicar of St. Andrew's, Birmingham, to be assistant to the Rev. W. J. O'Donnell, Vicar of St. Andrew's, Birmingham.

**Dioecese of Chelmsford**

The Rev. R. H. M. M. Vicar of St. Andrew's, Birmingham, to be assistant to the Rev. W. J. O'Donnell, Vicar of St. Andrew's, Birmingham.

The Rev. W. J. O'Donnell, Vicar of St. Andrew's, Birmingham, to be assistant to the Rev. R. H. M. M. Vicar of St. Andrew's, Birmingham.

**Dioecese of Oxford**

The Rev. R. H. M. M. Vicar of St. Andrew's, Birmingham, to be assistant to the Rev. W. J. O'Donnell, Vicar of St. Andrew's, Birmingham.

The Rev. W. J. O'Donnell, Vicar of St. Andrew's, Birmingham, to be assistant to the Rev. R. H. M. M. Vicar of St. Andrew's, Birmingham.

**Resignations and retirements**

The Rev. R. H. M. M. Vicar of St. Andrew's, Birmingham, to be assistant to the Rev. W. J. O'Donnell, Vicar of St. Andrew's, Birmingham.

The Rev. W. J. O'Donnell, Vicar of St. Andrew's, Birmingham, to be assistant to the Rev. R. H. M. M. Vicar of St. Andrew's, Birmingham.

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## Christmas Gift Guide

## Christmas Holidays

## Treat yourself this Christmas

Leave all the work to us and take time to enjoy yourself.

## Come to London

London has a special glitter at Christmas. Brilliant theatre, great shows, bright lights, and memorable sights.

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Be our guest and treat yourself to 2-5 consecutive nights at any of 17 comfortable Trust Houses Forte hotels in London. The cost is from as little as £6 per person per night including English breakfast, service and VAT. So THF will have something to suit your pocket. Treat yourself and make this a Christmas in London to remember.

For reservations and further details, telephone 01-567 3444.



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## For Him

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## THE TIMES CHRISTMAS GIFT GUIDE COMPETITION.

## HOW TO ENTER

First study the guide carefully. Then answer in full three simple questions. (The answers are all in the advertisements in today's Guide).

## Christmas Gift Guide Competition Number 16

Clue: You will find them in floral or fruit designs. What are they?

Clue: How much will the gift of the year cost?

Clue: You will probably get one of these on every Christmas card you receive. What are they?

Now put yourself in Santa's snow boots. Your sleigh is so laden and time so short that you're not likely to consider traffic wardens every time you pull Rudolph to a stop. Imagine your reaction when you are summoned for parking in a restricted zone.

Then write a 100 word letter to the Clerk of the Magistrates. You are going to plead mitigating circumstances. After all The Times Christmas Gift Guide has made so much extra work this year you can't be expected to notice every yellow line. And remember, a touch of joviality will probably soften the judicial heart.

Then send us your letter, remembering to enclose your full name and address, and indicating which prize you would like to receive should you win.

Three entrants must win every day the Guide is published. Closing date for today's competition, 3 days after today's date. Post this entry to: THE TIMES CHRISTMAS GIFT GUIDE COMPETITION, No. 12 Coley Street, London WC99 9YT.

The names and addresses of the winners will be published in The Times. The decision of the judges is final. All entries will be judged on their literary merits.

The hand that wields the pen writes a gripping word. Or so last year's letter writing competition made us believe. So this year we would like to test your powers of persuasion even more by asking you to draft an official epistle.

So, at the same time as solving your present problems, write a letter and win yourself one of these fabulous prizes.

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D. Wine Pack.

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E. A box of 25 Bolivar

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